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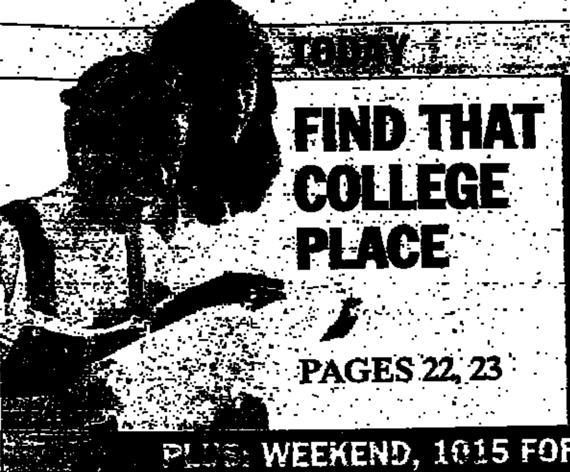

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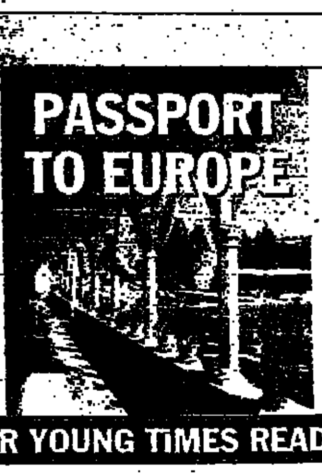

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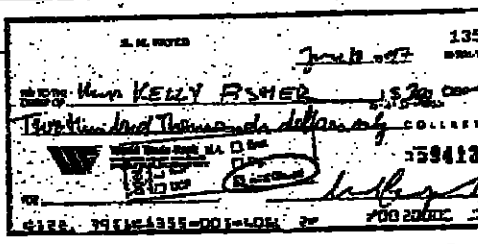

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PLUS: WEEKEND, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS, CAR 97 AND THE DIRECTORY, THE BEST 7-DAY TV, RADIO AND WHAT'S ON GUIDE

Late rush for last fee-free courses

Students jam lines in panic for places

By John O'Leary and David Charter

UNIVERSITIES reported an unprecedented scramble for the last free higher education places yesterday, as anxious students snapped up a record number of vacancies within 24 hours of A-level results being published.

Admissions tutors said panic-stricken applicants were jamming telephone lines or appearing in person on campus, fearful that next year's introduction of fees would heighten competition this year. Two-thirds of the expected 310,000 vacancies had been filled by yesterday morning.

With late applications 40 per cent up, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas) said that up to 30,000 more people than usual could compete for places in clearing. Tony Higgins, the chief executive, said all the early signs suggested greater pressure on places.

Despite ministers' concession on fees for gap-year students starting next year, more applicants are chasing fewer university places this summer. Thousands of mature students have brought forward their plans to start courses to beat the new charges, while others are expected to enter clearing rather than retake A levels. By early yesterday, Ucas had confirmed 211,575 university places, compared to 177,019 at the same stage last year.

Desperate applicants were using every manner of approach to win a place yesterday. Many universities introduced e-mail inquiry forms to ease the pressure on their telephone hotlines, and the website introduced by Ucas this summer received 80,000 visits in a day.

At Leeds University, one girl drove from London with her father only to be told that there were no places on the English course. Several others turned up at the dental school, which had no places in clearing.

Gillian Healy, the admissions officer, said: "It is heartbreaking, but they are actually coming up and knocking on closed doors. We have even had a call from a student on holiday in Nepal trying to get a place."

Manchester Metropolitan University took 50,000 telephone inquiries in the first 12 hours after A-level results were published. Carol Youlton, a university spokeswoman, said: "Once the results were out, there was a feeling of panic among many students."

The university had taken 20 per cent more calls for science and engineering courses — the most difficult to fill — than at the same point last year. Ms Youlton said admissions officers had been pleasantly surprised by the calibre of applicants. Students appeared to be acting decisively out of fear of extra competition in advance of fees.

Andrew Hindmarsh, the head of admissions at Sheffield University, said courses were filling up much more quickly than in previous years. For the first time, all vacancies in mathematics were taken in the first two days of clearing, and only a limited number of places were left in physics and some branches of engineering.

The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology had only 30 places left yesterday.

Many universities are remaining open over the weekend to reassure worried applicants and ensure that they have the pick of the remaining students.

Parents and students worried over losing money year-by-year in the Government's plans to phase out maintenance grants were yesterday offered reassurances by the Department for Education and Employment. A spokeswoman said that all students starting this October, as well as the 19,000 "gap year" students who applied this year, will continue to receive grants at the same level.

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ALEX SLAWTHER

Cernuschi arriving at court yesterday. She told police she acted in a fit of temper.

Stockbroker jailed for road rage assault on cyclist

By Michael Horsnell and Katie Knight

Wade: cut and bruised after clipping mirror

A WOMAN stockbroker who exploded with road rage and ran down a cyclist for clipping the wing mirror of her car was jailed for five months yesterday.

Frances Cernuschi, 47, who swerved into medical student Alexander Wade's bicycle to teach him a lesson for scratching her Rover saloon, also had the vehicle confiscated.

Judge Peter Fingret told her at Southwark Crown Court, London: "It was a deliberate assault by you, using your car as a weapon on an innocent road user."

Cernuschi, dressed in a bright blue skirt and jacket suit, who earns £60,000 a year at the London stockbrokers Charles Stanley, looked shocked as she was led to the cells. Her husband gasped with surprise.

Joe Cernuschi, 60, a retired BT engineer, said later at the couple's home in Tooting, south London: "I don't want to talk about it. It's disgusting." The couple, married for 24 years, have no children. Friends say she has been under strain at work and from caring for her husband, who is in poor health.

Mr Wade, 21, who received cuts and bruises, was knocked from his bicycle in Kennington Road, south-east London, and just missed being hit by the car. His assailant, who was ordered to pay him £400 compensation and disqualified from driving for four years, sped off but was pursued by a motorcylist, who alerted police. Cernuschi admitted dangerous driving, common assault and criminal damage as she drove to work on January 22.

Anne Darlow, prosecuting, said: "The defendant pulled up at a set of red traffic lights at the same time Mr Wade's bike passed her car, overtaking her on the nearside. He clipped her wing mirror, causing a scratch. The defendant sounded her horn and Mr Wade mouthed the word 'Sorry' to her."

But as the cyclist moved forward when the lights changed, Cernuschi swerved into the back of his bicycle and he was flung into the road. "She then drove over his rear wheel, narrowly missing Mr Wade's legs."

Cernuschi told police she had acted in a flash of temper. Roger Offenbach, defending, said she bitterly regretted her actions.

Man on Dillon murder charge

A 26-year-old man was last night charged with the murder of schoolboy Dillon Hull in an apparent drugs-related shooting in Bolton last week.

Dillon, 5, was gunned down as he went to a shop with his stepfather John Bates, 28, near the family's home.

Greater Manchester police said the man, who is from Bolton, would appear before magistrates in the town today charged with the boy's murder and the attempted murder of Mr Bates, who was shot in the abdomen.

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Pensioners dig up coins buried to beat the Norman Conquest

By Mark Henderson

TWO pensioners exploring a Sussex field with metal detectors have unearthed a hoard of Anglo-Saxon silver coins thought to have been buried by a panicking merchant before the Battle of Hastings.

Bert Douch, 68, and Phil Collins, 67, both from Hastings, last weekend found 375 silver pennies from the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042-66). They made their find on a farm on the outskirts of the town and less than four miles from the spot where William the Conqueror defeated Harold II.

The coins, which were buried in a terracotta pot, are thought to be the most significant find of late Anglo-Saxon currency this century. Dr Gareth Williams, curator of early medieval coins at the British Museum, said yesterday: "Coinage minted by Edward the Confessor was still the dominant currency during the brief reign of Harold II, and the way it was buried suggests a response to a crisis.

"There were only two crises that would fit the bill: the rebellion against Edward by Harold's father, Earl Godwin, in 1050-51, and the Battle of Hastings in 1066."

David Bates, Professor of Medieval History at Glasgow University and the biographer of William the Conqueror, said the battle almost certainly led to the burial of the coins. "My instinct says 1066, as Godwin's rebellion did not touch the Hastings area in the same way," he said.

"There was absolute panic and pandemonium in Sussex when William landed and ravaged the countryside to try to provoke Harold into battle as soon as possible.

"Any merchant with any nous would have done this. It's a classic response to would-be pillagers — bury your treasure and lock up your daughters."

Professor Bates and Dr Williams said the presence of any coins minted during Harold's reign, which lasted only a few months in 1066, would prove the circumstances of the burial. The coins already cleaned and examined are from the 1040s and early 1050s.

Dr Williams said the presence of "clipped" coins (coins which have had their edges pared) and coins from several different mints in the hoard indicated that it was the property of a merchant, rather than a nobleman's private treasure or money minted to pay an army. Hastings was a medium-sized town of about 1,500 in the mid-11th century, with its own market and mint.

Mr Douch and Mr Collins could make anything between £4,000 and £200,000 from the find, which they will share with the owner of the farm where it was discovered.

The law of treasure trove deems hidden treasure that is more than 50 per cent gold or silver to be the property of the Crown. A Treasury committee of experts sets a level of compensation for the finder and the landowner based on market prices for the objects discovered.

NEIL BENNETT

Scots MP is facing suspension

By Dominic Kennedy and Andrew Pierce

THE Labour MP Tommy Graham is expected to be suspended by the party after describing Gordon McMaster, the MP who killed himself, as a drunkard.

Nick Brown, the Chief Whip, is understood to be recommending the action in a report, ordered by the Prime Minister, into the suicide.

Suspending Mr Graham for his outburst would give the appearance of tough action but would fail to satisfy the clamour for Labour to widen its investigation to include alleged links between the party and Paisley drugs barons.

Mr Graham, MP for Renfrewshire West, was named on the suicide note left by Mr McMaster on the windscreen of his fume-filled car a fortnight ago.

Mr Graham told the Glasgow *Evening Times* last week: "If the real truth came out the guy had a drink problem."

McMaster inquiry, pages 8, 9

Minister named in olives-for-peasants inquiry

By Andrew Pierce
Political Correspondent

A MINISTER charged with modernising the nation's finances faces an unexpected Parliamentary challenge to the feudal bartering system he deploys to pay peasant labourers at his Tuscany estate.

Tory MPs, keen to cause some midsummer mischief, have asked the Commons to investigate the medieval payment system used by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, at his Tuscany holiday home. Though hardly in the cash-for-questions league, Mr Robinson definitely falls into the olives-for-peasants category.

He is being reported to the Commons watchdog for failing to declare in the MPs register of interests the luxury home, which he loaned to Tony Blair this summer for the second year running, and where the labourers are paid in olives in return for tending the groves.

The register of MPs interests says that second homes need not be registered unless they are regularly let for a substantial rent.

Mr Robinson, publisher of the *New Statesman*, who has five homes, is facing questions from MPs over the land at the imposing £3 million neoclassical house at San Gimignano.

A spokesman for Mr Robinson said that the minister had behaved within the spirit of the rules.

"Some of the land at Tuscany is worked. There is an olive grove. But people who work the land take it [the olives] in exchange for keeping the land tended. There is also grazing land which they can use in return for their labour. There is little or no income generated for Mr Robinson with the exception of a couple of flagons of olive oil. He flits between the houses, which are not let, so the position is clear."

Last night the Tories seized on the unusual system of bartering to try to embarrass a rising star of the Government. Nigel Evans, the MP for Ribble Valley, said: "What is the the minimum wage in olives? This is a grey area. Which one of the properties is a second home and which one the fifth? I am referring it to Commons standards committee."

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Detectionists turn up undreamt of treasure

Modern day equipment has given a boost to archaeology reports **Mark Henderson**

TONY WHITE

Phil Collins, left, and Bert Douch with the equipment they used to find a hoard of Anglo-Saxon coins in a field on a farm on the outskirts of Hastings last weekend

METAL detector enthusiasts such as the Sussex pensioners who discovered the hoard of coins from the time of Edward the Confessor have been responsible for some of the most important archaeological finds over the last 20 years.

Since affordable detection equipment became available in Britain in the mid-1970s, thousands of amateurs have taken up hunting for treasure, often with astonishing results.

In 1992 Eric Lawes, a retired gardener, unearthed the Hoxne Hoard — 15,000 Roman gold and silver coins and plate — near Eye in Suffolk. He was looking for a friend's hammer in a ploughed field. Mr Lawes received a reward of £1.75 million from the Treasure Trove Committee, and his find is now in the British Museum.

The Middleham Jewel, a 15th century gold and sapphire pendant found by an amateur detectionist near Middleham Castle in North Yorkshire in 1985, fetched £1.43 million at an auction and is now in York museum.

A medieval silver collar known as the collar of SS, found on a Thames mudbank in 1983, is now in the Museum of London, and a gold Tudor pin, eventually sold for £35,000, was found by an amateur in Farnham, Surrey.

Trevor Austin of the National Council of Metal Detecting said amateur detectionists had brought a new dimension to archaeology. "The Hoxne Hoard was found in a ploughed field, and the Middleham Jewel on a grassy plain," he said. "These are places that archaeologists would never even try to look."

Not all metal detectionists meet with the approval of the archaeologists. So-called nighthawks, who steal into controlled archaeological digs under cover of darkness to remove artefacts without declaring their finds, have despoiled many important sites across the country. More than 10,000 coins worth as much as £4 million are thought to have been taken from a dig at Warnborough in Surrey after a small group of Celtic coins were discovered there in 1985. Nine people were convicted but fined only £2,000.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport encourages coroners not to release details of the locations of major finds to prevent nighthawks combing the area for left-overs. The 1996 Treasure Act, which comes into force next month, creates a new offence of failing to report a valuable object; it carries a sentence of up to three months' imprisonment and a £5,000 fine. The Act also widens the scope of treasure that can be claimed as Treasure Trove by the Crown.

Mr Austin said the nighthawks were responsible for giving a reputable hobby a bad name. "Their behaviour is criminal and in no way condoned by the national council," he said.

The council tells its members to seek a landowner's permission before looking for treasure, and advises declaring all valuable finds to a coroner, police station or museum immediately.

Metal detectors can cost anything from £50 to £700. Would-be detectionists also need a good pair of headphones, a trowel, local knowedge and "plenty of patience", Mr Austin said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hattersley condemns 'shallow' Mandelson

Lord Hattersley launches a scathing attack today on Peter Mandelson, claiming that he deals with poverty "like a door-to-door salesman whose merchandise is obviously second rate". The former deputy Labour leader also suggests that the social exclusion unit set up by Tony Blair to address inequality is merely a device to delay action to raise standards for the poor. Writing in *The Times*, Mr Hattersley dismisses a Fabian lecture by Mr Mandelson on social inequality as "depressingly superficial" and says he fears any policies would be similarly "facile". He adds: "No minister has provided a convincing explanation of why they [the poor] are not offered immediate help. Mr Mandelson talks quickly about something else and attacks his competitors for deficiencies which he has invented." Roy Hattersley, page 18

Hate-mail man jailed

A man who terrorised two female colleagues at a McDonald's restaurant with anonymous hate mail was jailed for 4½ years yesterday, at Kingston Crown Court. Jangbahadur Gill, 22, of Feltham, west London, a student who worked at the Staines branch of the restaurant, admitted assault causing actual bodily harm and assault causing grievous bodily harm through the stress he had caused.

McAliskey books ruling

Two books allegedly belonging to Roisin McAliskey can to be handed to the German authorities before next month's attempt to extradite her on terrorist charges, Belfast Crown Court ruled. A 1995 diary and a provisional application for a driving licence, allegedly containing the handwriting of Ms McAliskey, were seized by the RUC at her home in Coalisland, Co Tyrone last year.

Soccer blacked out

Live football shown in pubs on Saturdays is to end. The Premier League obtained a High Court order yesterday against one of the main suppliers of diverting equipment that enables television pictures of games beamed to Scandinavia being picked up and broadcast live. The ruling means the devices will no longer be sold and remaining stocks given over to the Premier League.

Parade row man jailed

A black man who was asked to take part in a police identification parade alongside white men with faces blackened by a make-up artist has been jailed for assault. Martin Kamara, 43, a club doorman, was jailed for seven months at Sheffield Crown Court for attacking a customer. The parade related to a separate charge of blackmail, which was dismissed last month by a High Court judge.

Drugs doctor escapes jail

A doctor who committed fraud to feed his drug addiction was given a 12-month suspended sentence by Manchester Crown Court. Brian Moss, 55, from Whitehaven, Cumbria, who pleaded guilty to seven charges of obtaining the Class C drug temazepam by deception, was saved from jail by the "glowing testimonials" of his patients, Judge Rhys Davies said. Dr Moss has resigned from the practice.

Fewer cathedral visitors

The number of visitors to Canterbury Cathedral has fallen since charges were introduced in 1995. The charges have put the cathedral in credit, but visitors declined from 1.9 m in 1995 to 1.7 m in 1996, according to figures published by the English Tourist Board. Charges were originally introduced for financial reasons; this July the cathedral began charging on Sundays to ease overcrowding.

Higgins stabbed in arm

Alex Higgins, 47, the former world champion snooker player, discharged himself from hospital after treatment for stab wounds after an incident involving a woman. Mr Higgins was taken to Hope Hospital, Salford, Manchester, with wounds to the right arm and abdomen, but walked out. Police found Higgins injured after being called to at a house in Swinton. A 34-year-old woman was arrested.

Four get 7 A-grades

A total of four students gained seven As in this year's A levels, it emerged. Michael Brown, 18, a pupil at Bancroft's School in Woodford Green, Essex, and Richard Neill, 18, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire, both of whom are heading for Cambridge University, share the distinction of gaining seven straight As with Philip Croker, of Kingswood School, Bath, and James Williams, of King Edward's School, Bath.

FHM overtakes Cosmo

The men's magazine *FHM* has overtaken women's market leaders *Cosmopolitan* and *Marie Claire* with sales of more than 500,000 a month, according to the latest half-year figures. FHM, recently voted consumer magazine of the year, has increased circulation by 178 per cent in the past year. *FHM* sells 505,000 a month compared to *Cosmopolitan*'s 442,000 and *Marie Claire's* 435,000.

Grandmother sets record

Jennifer Murray, a 56-year-old grandmother, arrived back in Britain as the first woman to have piloted a helicopter around the world. Having braved sandstorms, cyclones and volcanoes, Mrs Murray and her co-pilot Quentin Smith, 26, landed in Denham, Buckinghamshire. They were cheered by crowds of well-wishers, including the Duchess of York, at the end of their 97-day trip.

Unionists claim soldiers jailed to appease IRA

By Martin Fletcher and Shirley English

THE Government has been accused of keeping two British soldiers behind bars to appease the IRA before next month's peace talks.

Ulster Unionist and Conservative politicians attacked Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, after a Belfast court upheld her appeal against a recent ruling that two Scots Guards jailed for murdering an 18-year-old Catholic should be considered for immediate release. The Belfast Court of Appeal's decision means the soldiers are now bound by the decision of Dr Mowlam's predecessor, Lord Mayhew, and must wait until October before their cases are reviewed.

With peace talks due begin on September 15, the fate of James Fisher, 27, from Ayr, and Mark Wright, 22, from Arbroath, is highly sensitive. The release of Paratrooper Lee Clegg during the last IRA ceasefire, after he had served just three years of a life sentence for murdering a Catholic joyrider, caused extensive rioting in West Belfast and severely undermined Republican confidence in John Major's Government.

In this instance, Unionist anger has been fuelled by the decision this week by Dublin to start releasing IRA prisoners early following last month's ceasefire, and by hints from Dr Mowlam that she, too, would consider early releases of IRA prisoners if the ceasefire holds.

Ken Maginnis, the MP for Fermanagh and the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, said that Dr Mowlam was "so keen to have [Sinn Fein] in negotiations she's going to give them everything they want to make sure they come".

Phil Gallie, the vice-chairman of the Scottish Conservative party and former MP for Ayr, said Dr Mowlam had "capitulated to pressure from the IRA". She had "let down the boys and all the British troops in Northern Ireland".

☐ Terrorists have attacked the homes of four past or present prison officers in 24 hours following riots by loyalist prisoners at the top-security Maze prison this week.

Turkish gangs aim heroin sales at young recreational drug users

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

TURKISH criminal gangs are targeting young people in Britain as heroin users in an attempt to boost sales, according to the Customs and Excise.

The gangs, with members in northern Cyprus and London, are focusing on Britain because of a trend towards "recreational" use of the drug by non-addicts, who smoke it rather than inject it. But in an attempt to maintain street prices of the drugs, the gangs are manipulating the market by stockpiling heroin either in Britain or in the Benelux countries and only releasing it slowly.

One source said that heroin was now moving into the "rave" scene, where young people smoke heroin at the end of a night taking other drugs in order to bring them down so that they were fit for work the next day. He said that some young people, who would previously have shunned the drug because of its anti-social reputation, were now using it because they believed wrongly that smoking was non-addictive.

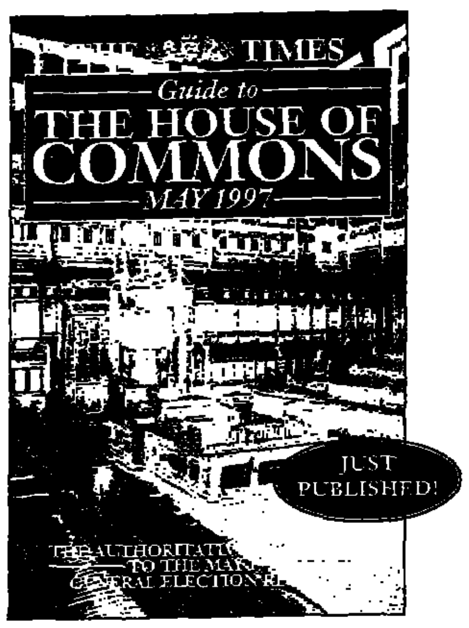
The heroin market in Britain is dominated by Turkish criminal gangs, according to the first report of the National Investigation Service of Customs and Excise.

Les Beaumont, assistant chief investigating officer, said that many members of the gangs were British citizens with orgins in Turkey. "The link between England and northern Cyprus is absolutely vital because there are so many people in northern Cyprus who operate with a fair amount of immunity from prosecution." Most of the heroin in Britain originated from Afghanistan and Pakistan but was processed in Turkey before bring brought across Europe to Britain.

Mr Beaumont said that Nigerians were heavily involved in the heroin trade as "professional smugglers" who would barter heroin for cocaine. They would take heroin to Latin America and bring cocaine back to Western Europe. The service is also having to combat the threat posed by a new source of Ecstasy. Most of the amphetamines and Ecstasy in Britain comes from the Netherlands but Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia are emerging as new sources.

Investigators believe that central Europe's emergence as a base for manufacturing Ecstasy is a result of chemists losing their jobs after the collapse of the Eastern Bloc.

Who won what and why?



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Hemel Hempstead	£138	£69
Reading	£118	£59
Rochester	£118	£59
Swindon	£98	£49

CENTRAL ENGLAND

LOCATION	Usual 2 Night	OFFER 2 FOR 1
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Birmingham Airport*	£118	£59
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Coventry	£98	£49
Derby/Burton*	£118	£59
High Wycombe*	£138	£69
Leicester*	£98	£49
Lincoln*	£116	£59
Milton Keynes	£118	£59

CENTRAL ENGLAND

LOCATION	Usual 2 Night	OFFER 2 FOR 1
Nottingham City*	£118	£59
Nottingham/Derby*	£98	£49
Rugby/Northampton	£98	£49
Stoke-on-Trent	£118	£59
Stratford-upon-Avon*	£158	£79

THE EAST OF ENGLAND

LOCATION	Usual 2 Night	OFFER 2 FOR 1
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Colchester	£118	£59
Peterborough	£98	£49
Stevenage*	£98	£49

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

LOCATION	Usual 2 Night	OFFER 2 FOR 1
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Haydock	£118	£59
Hull*	£118	£59
Hull Marina	£118	£59
Leeds/Bradford	£118	£59
Leeds/Selby	£98	£49
Manchester Airport	£158	£79
Manchester*	£118	£59
Preston*	£98	£49
Sheffield	£98	£49
Teesside*	£98	£49
Wakefield*	£98	£49
Warrington/Runcorn	£98	£49
Washington*	£98	£49

SCOTLAND, IRELAND AND WALES

LOCATION	Usual 2 Night	OFFER 2 FOR 1
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Pitbull takes on mistress of the soundbite

Giles Whittell on two fearsome lawyers who boast a string of high-profile clients

Fields: writes thrillers

THE *two lawyers representing Kelly* Fisher and Dodi Fayed have fearsome reputations in Hollywood for their skills behind the scenes of high-profile legal cases. Known to his rivals as "The Pitbull", Mr Fayed's lawyer Bertram Fields is famed for keeping celebrity clients out of court by negotiating pre-trial settlements.

Mr Fields, who was educated at Harvard, had a hand in arranging *the $20 million deal reached in 1994* with Evan Chandler, the father of a *13-year-old* boy who accused Michael Jackson of molesting him. In his spare time, Mr Fields writes best-selling thrillers. He has also represented John Travolta, Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman.

Miss Fisher's lawyer, Gloria Allred, 52, is likewise known as a consummate backroom *negotiator* who is seldom seen in court. She has *represented the family of* Nicole Brown, OJ Simpson's murdered *wife*, and has a popular liberal talk show on KABC, a Los Angeles station.

Gloria Allred has built her reputation and a lucrative career telling some of Hollywood's most visible men to stop behaving badly. Her clients are usually scorned or battered women, unknown to the general public. But with a list of foes including Charlie Sheen, OJ Simpson, Imran Khan and Michael Jackson, *she has come to personify* the high-risk and often tawdry *business of suing Californian* celebrities.

The feminist has since acted for Brittany Ashland, a model who was once thrown to the ground and knocked out in a row with the actor Charlie Sheen. In a rare legal coup against against a film star, he pleaded no contest to battery charges and agreed to fines and community service.

Ms Allred, who once reportedly had a backstreet abortion after being raped, has been on television almost *constantly* in Los Angeles since taking on the cause of Denise Brown, *the sister of* OJ Simpson's murdered wife.

When *Simpon lost his civil trial* this year and was forced to dispose of his personal effects, the lawyer said: "The only thing I can see of value is the American football helmet . . . for any women who may date him in the future." Mistress of the soundbite, she regularly fends off bitter opponents more used to talk radio's traditionally conservative bent on her show.

The day before announcing Kelly Fisher's lawsuit against Dodi Fayed, she won a court ruling against Imran Khan on behalf of the heiress Sita White, in which the cricketer-turned-politician was named as the legal father of Ms White's four-year-*old daughter*. "Mr *Khan* should recognise that no game of politics is more *important than his little* daughter," Ms Allred declared after the case ended.

Allred: talk show host

KIERAN DOHERTY/REUTERS

Princess flies to Greek holiday in Harrods jet

By Giles Whittell in Los Angeles and Emma Wilkins

DIANA, Princess of Wales, left Kensington Palace for a yachting holiday in Greece yesterday, using a Harrods aircraft for the flight to Athens airport.

The Princess boarded the Gulfstream jet, which was dressed in the store's gold and *green livery, at Stansted* airport with Rosa Monckton, *one of her oldest friends*. The Princess's choice of transport *was being seen last night* as an endorsement of her relationship with Dodi Fayed, whose father Mohamed Al Fayed is the owner of the Knightsbridge store.

Her decision to use the Harrods jet came as Mr Fayed, 41, denied claims from a Californian model that he had jilted her. Kelly Fisher, 31, the model who is suing him for breach of contract, was *in danger of becoming* an object of mirth in America as *legal experts questioned* the merits of her law-suit.

Through his publicist, Mr Fayed denied having been engaged to Miss Fisher or buying a house in Malibu in which they would live. He claimed their relationship was merely "one of friendship".

"He did know her and they had seen one another, but according to the best of my knowledge they stopped dating earlier in the year," Pat Kingsley, the publicist, said after Miss Fisher's tearful appearance at a press conference on Thursday night.

Ms Kingsley said: "He was not engaged to her, he did not *promise to marry her. He* had considered her to be a friend, *who he had gone out with* before. Earlier this year, in *January or February*, their relationship changed from a *romantic* one to a friendly one. Mr Fayed's attorney is going to answer the lawsuit next week and Mr Fayed will be denying everything that it says."

In a blizzard of flash bulbs, Miss Fisher had displayed a large sapphire and diamond engagement ring which she said the heir to the Harrods fortune had given her in December 1996.

The publicist stated bluntly: "She was given jewellery and *gifts because they were seeing* one another, but she was not given an engagement ring."

Mr Fayed, who for several days has been expected to arrive in Los Angeles on a business trip, has reportedly hired Bertram Fields as his attorney. He is renowned in California for defending clients such as Michael Jackson and the Church of Scientology in controversial cases.

Legal experts questioned *the merits of Miss Fisher's* lawsuit against Mr Fayed and hinted that an out-of-court settlement was by far its most likely outcome. "This sounds much more like a publicity stunt than a legitimate lawsuit," Laurie Levenson of the Loyola University Law School said.

Under Californian law Miss Fisher would have to *prove that she had offered* legitimate services of commercial value to win a breach of contract lawsuit, Professor Levenson explained. She added: "Her sexual or emotional services won't meet that definition."

Miss Fisher, who has appeared on the front covers of *Elle* and *W*, is demanding legal costs, unspecified damages and $440,000 as part of a $500,000 payment she claims Mr Fayed promised her in return for scaling down her modelling work to spend more time with him.

The model said in her lawsuit she had received $60,000 of that payment, but a cheque for a *further* $200,000 was returned by the *bank with a note saying that* the account had been closed.

Ordinarily delighted by local stories with even a hint of *royal intrigue, the US* media has greeted the Fisher lawsuit with much rolling of eyes and a little embarrassment.

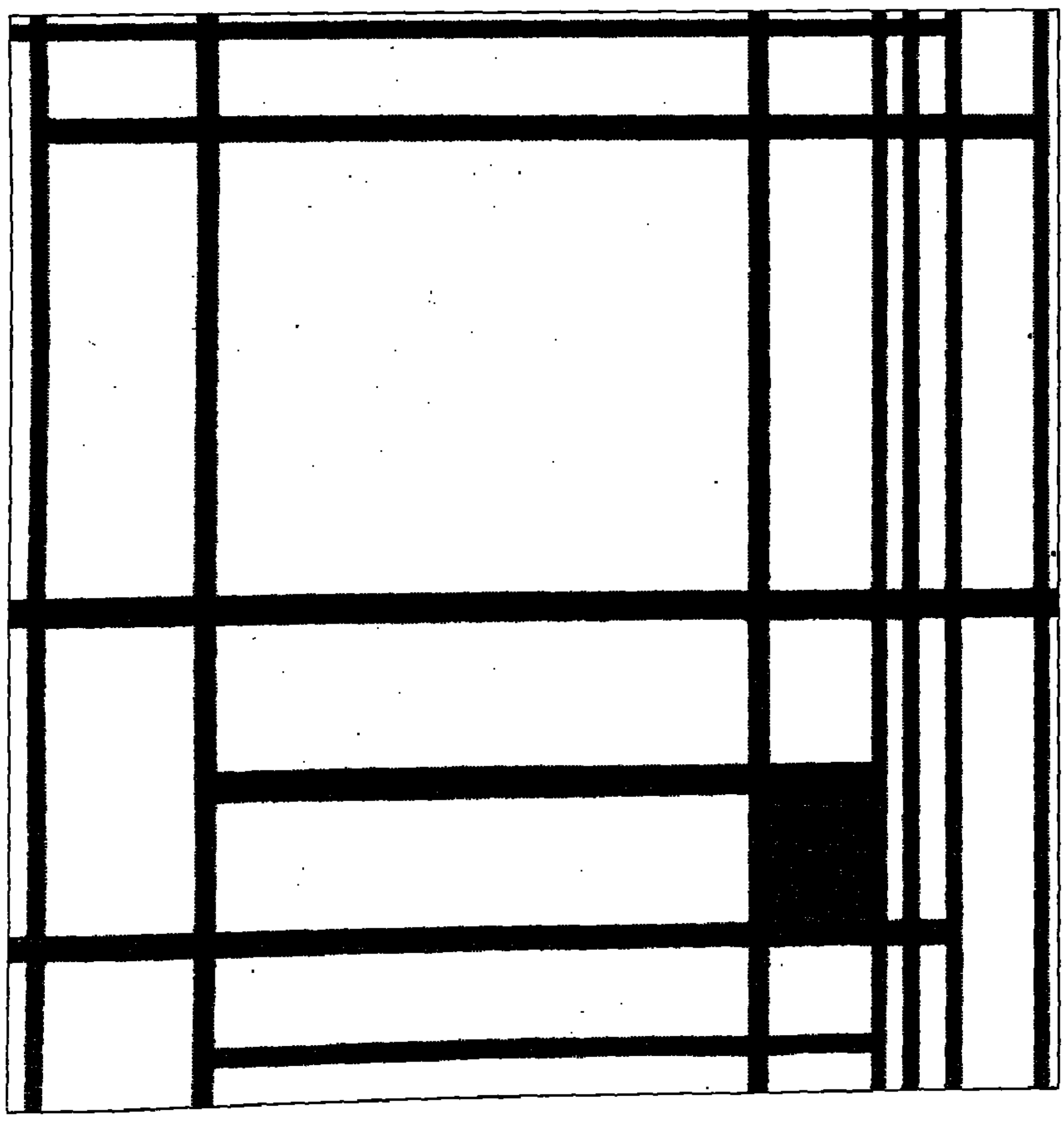
One journalist who attended Thursday's press conference held in Ms Allred's gleamingly white office suite was heard to mutter: "If this is news, then I'm the Queen of England."

The Princess, who dined with Mr Fayed at his Mayfair appartment on Thursday *night, made an early morning* trip to her gym in Earls Court, west *London yesterday*.

She is expected to spend *several days abroad with Ms* Monckton, who is the wife of Dominic Lawson, Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*. She is also president of Tiffany's, the Bond Street jewellery emporium. The Princess is godmother to the Lawsons' two-year-old daughter, Domenica, who has Down's syndrome.

Kelly Fisher, suing Dodi Fayed for breach of *contract, claiming he jilted her for the Princess*

The Princess outside her gym in Earls Court yesterday



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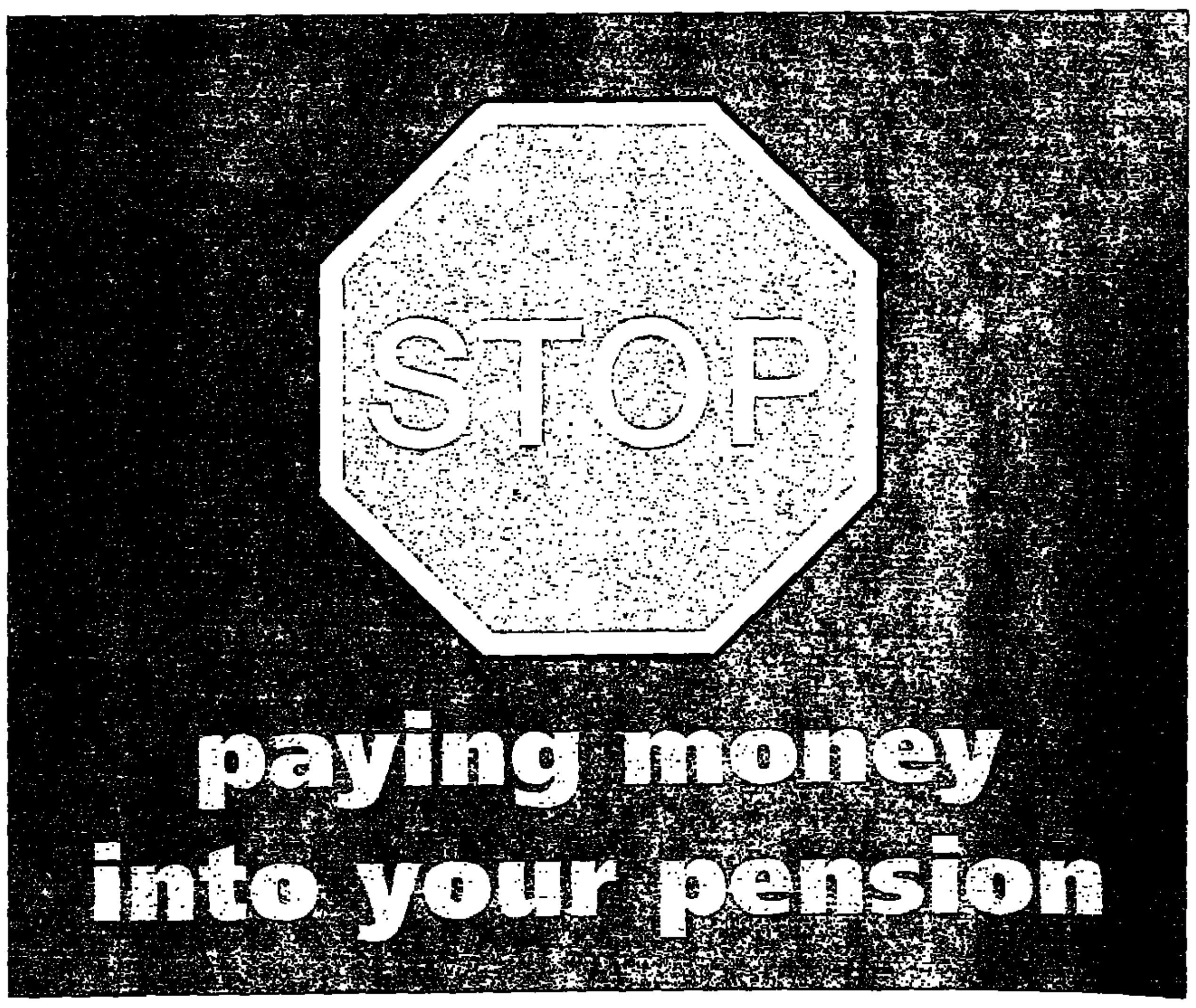

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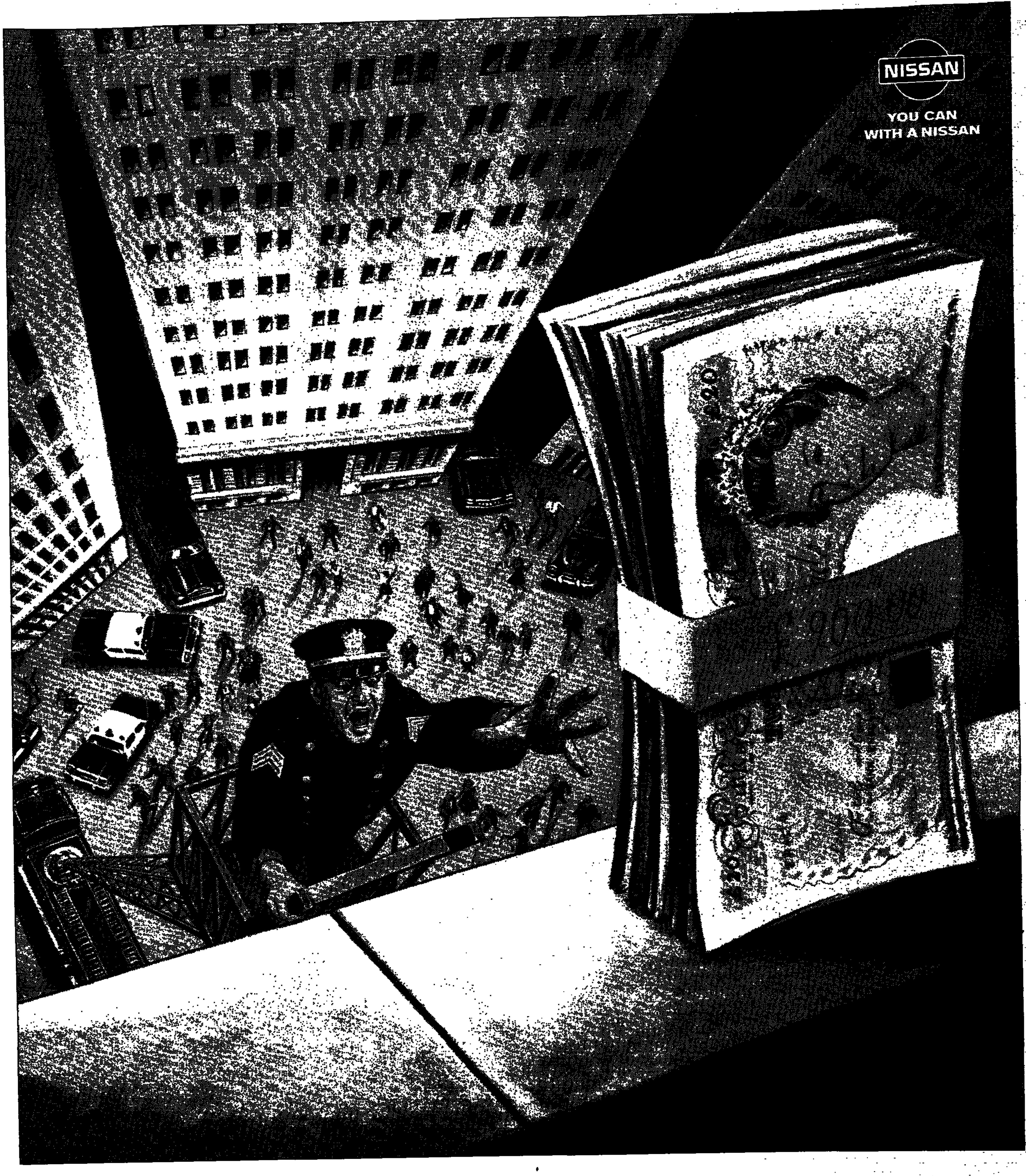

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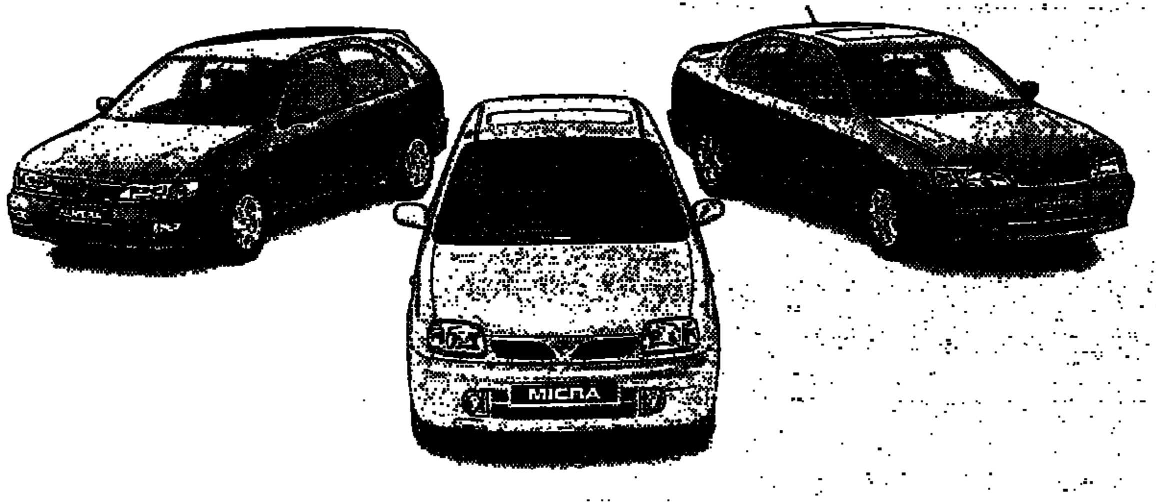

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هكذا من الاصل

German cult fights order to quit

Stephen Farrell watches from a safe distance as evangelicals tussle with National Trust officials trying to evict them from Cornish beach

MEMBERS of the obscure German cult who invaded a Cornish beach to pray to God clashed yesterday with officials who posted notices ordering them to leave.

Bewildered locals looked on as 50 members of the Horst Schaffranek Evangelical movement remonstrated with officials hammering possession orders into the sand at Loe Bar, between Helston and Penzance.

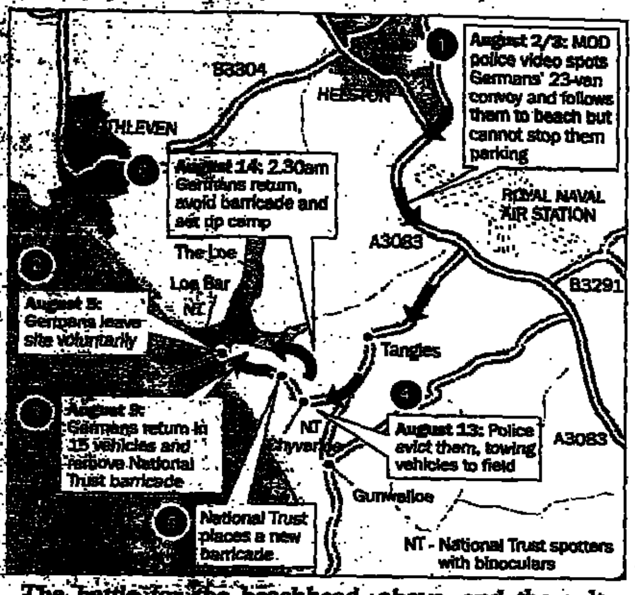
The confrontation came on the third day that the cult's camper vans and cars have occupied the National Trust-owned site, from which all vehicles are banned. The group refused to say when they would leave or if they would comply with an eviction order. They have already been removed twice after dismantling and driving around barricades erected by frustrated National Trust wardens.

Officials arrived at 4pm yesterday to post notices that the trust is to apply for eviction orders at Truro County Court on Monday. Cult members ran after the officials, grabbing the notices and shouting: "We don't want you here. Is God within you?"

The National Trust claims that the Germans have three times illegally occupied the shingle bar which separates the sea from Loe Pool, reputed to be where Sir Bedivere cast King Arthur's sword Excalibur to the Lady of the Lake. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a breeding ground for the rare sandhill rustic moth.

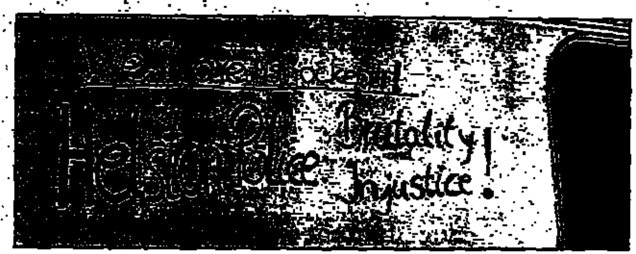
The evangelicals are led by a grey-bearded figure in white cap and brightly coloured shorts who held prayer and discussion meetings beside Loe Pool at midday. He called himself Horst Schaffranek and was surrounded by acolytes beside his camper van, which was the largest in the group and the most prominently covered in biblical quotations in Greek, French, Spanish and German.

Herr Schaffranek refused to be interviewed, or to give any information about himself or his group. He indicated only that they were displeased with their reception in England. As Herr Schaffranek led the group in midday prayer and discussion, his followers said they chose the beach because they could find nowhere else to park their vans.



1
August 2/3: MOD police video spots Germans' 23-van convoy and follows them to beach but cannot stop them parking
B3304
HELSTON
PORTHLEVEN
August 14: 2.30am Germans return, avoid barricade and set up camp
ROYAL NAVAL AIR STATION
A3083
The Loe
Loe Bar
NT
B3291
2
August 5: Germans leave site voluntarily
3
August 8: Germans return in 15 vehicles and remove National Trust barricade
Tangles
4
NT
Chyvarloe
August 13: Police evict them, towing vehicles to field
A3083
Gunwalloe
5
National Trust places a new barricade
NT - National Trust spotters with binoculars

The battle for the beachhead, above, and the cult members' response to police actions



Dr Tomas Kopka, 49, from Bielefeld, said they had travelled from different towns in Germany to a peaceful spot to spend two weeks preparing for a meeting of international youth with the Pope in Paris next week.

He had taken two weeks off from his job as a telecommunications worker to bring his wife and two children to Britain, and found Loe Bar ideal until police arrived to evict them with, he claimed, unnecessary force.

"We travel a straight way for justice," he said. "I think this is a good opportunity for English society to think about its laws.

"We could not find another place to put all these cars. Penzance and Newquay are large towns and it is not good for us to be in the middle of crowds of people. We can't concentrate. We need room."

He said that members travelled to Africa, Russia, China and North America preaching and teaching the Bible, and each had an independent role within the group.

The Evangelical Alliance, which represents 12 denominations, issued a statement dissociating itself from the group yesterday after consulting its German sister organisation. "We have been advised that Horst Schaffranek are not a mainstream Christian organisation and are regarded by some in Germany as a dangerous cult," a spokesman said. "They have a reputation as a group which disrupts large Christian meetings by shouting out messages and unfurling banners and posters in front of the preacher, preventing him from being seen."

Although most of the cult remained vague about their intentions, Frank Riemenschneider, 31, from southern Germany, said they had planned to leave yesterday because many had ferry tickets home, but wanted to stay to find out what would happen to their friends in court.

Their campsite consists of a dozen vans and cars, many daubed with Old Testament verses and placards denouncing the police and National Trust. Robin Howard, National Trust countryside manager for The Lizard, said that the vehicles were damaging Loe Bar's fragile topsoil.

Giles Clotworthy, for the National Trust, said legal action was necessary because the cult had become "progressively more aggressive and intimidating" towards trust employees. "We did not seek confrontation, but we have to be firm, fair and consistent. We cannot allow camping and vehicles on our property."

Last night the camp was down to eight vehicles and 50 evangelicals, who sat in a circle singing and chanting. Police fear it could take until Monday to remove them all.

Neighbouring residents were mysitifed by the group. John Mills, 46, the chief executive of Cornwall County Council, who lives in the lane leading to the beach, said: "If there were just one small camper van nobody would mind, but this is overkill. It is a very delicate spot.

"We were troubled on our usual morning walk to see a Germanic lady with a builder's shovel emerging from behind the reeds. We all think it's a little inappropriate."

Angela Thomas, landlady of the Halzephron Inn, said: "People here are quite amused. It all seems very exotic."

Cult members studying the National Trust's possession orders on the beach. Several left yesterday but about 50 spent last night singing and chanting in a circle

DAVID BRENCHLEY

The Lord Jesus rules by His power forever! He is awesome in His doing towards the sons of men. Psalm 66

A cult member protesting outside Truro Magistrates' Court as five others were brought before the bench. Two were in jail last night for failing to pay court costs

Two sent to jail for failure to pay costs

TWO cult members were taken to jail yesterday for failure to pay their court costs. The two men were given conditional discharges for two years after admitting offences at Loe Bar and were each ordered to pay £54 legal costs.

Because they could not pay immediately John Knuckey, the chairman of Truro magistrates, ordered them to be committed to prison for a maximum of seven days. They will be released as soon as the costs are paid.

A third man, who was jailed with them, paid his costs last night and was freed. A fourth defendant, a 67-year-old woman, was also given a two-year conditional discharge, but was not ordered to pay costs.

A fifth male defendant was remanded in custody after denying trespass. He will appear in court next week.

The four defendants sentenced yesterday were told by Mr Knuckey: "You seem to have a very low regard for the law of this country. Whatever the law is you have to respect it. If we go to Germany, we must respect German law. We expect German people to respect English law."

At the start of the 2½-hour hearing two female members of the group sitting at the back of the court were removed by court officials after they refused to stand for the magistrates.

The four male defendants began singing in the dock when they were brought in and were ordered to stop by the court clerk.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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John Wells and Peter Cook

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John Wells reviews a new book on Peter Cook, The Sunday Times tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Shiny new stars eclipse the rock dinosaurs

By Carol Midgley, Media Coresspondent

AGEING rockers can no longer compete with the new generation of pop stars and are being squeezed out of the market.

Veterans such as Sting, Phil Collins and Dire Straits are losing out to the explosion of new twentysomething talents such as Oasis, Cast, Kula Shaker and the Spice Girls in terms of album sales, according to research.

The 400-page study, by the consultancy Media Research Publishing, found that artists with careers lasting five years or more were responsible for only 29 per cent of Britain's best selling new albums between 1994 and 1996. That compared with 59 per cent in the previous three years.

Collins, Sting, Def Leppard and the Pet Shop Boys are named as acts who last year released albums that failed to match the sales of previous albums. In extreme cases the trend may pose financial problems for record labels that have long-term contracts with stars losing their bankability.

Robert Sandall, head of press at Virgin Records and a spokesman for the Spice Girls, said even relatively trendy bands such as U2 and The Cure, the cult Eighties indie band, had also been affected. "All these bands have taken a knock," he said. "It has been established within the industry for the last year. Phil Collins was a particularly salutary lesson, although his tour is doing quite well.

"Any band that has had a career that has lasted more than a decade is looking a bit ropey. The Cure have been hit hard. Their last album, *Wild Mood Swings*, did very badly. No one really knew why, because it sounded like any other Cure album. I would say U2 are a borderline case."

One possible explanation is that older stars are failing to attract young fans like they used to. Radio 1 now gives over less air time to established stars and more to experimental music.

In 1992 only four of the 50 best-selling albums came from new artists. In 1996 there were ten.

Andy Lown, managing director of Tower records in Britain, said: "Many of these rock dinosaurs don't realise that they have little to say to the young audience."

But a spokeswoman at East West, which respresents Phil Collins, said: "You have got to look at a career over a whole lifetime. Phil Collins's career has spanned many, many years. We could be having this conversation in ten years and he will still be selling records."

A spokeswoman for Sting said: "As far as we are concerned Sting is a healthy, platinum-selling artist."

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Show's over for agent who failed to pay TV stars

By A Staff Reporter

CAROLINE QUENTIN, one of the stars of *Men Behaving Badly*, wrote off more than £100,000 last night after her former agent was banned from working in showbusiness for ten years.

The maximum prohibition was imposed on Sharon Hamper at an industrial tribunal in Southampton at the end of a case brought by the Department of Trade and Industry's employment agency standards office. Ms Quentin was one of several celebrities — including Leslie Ash, who also stars in *Men Behaving Badly*; Craig McLachlan, the actor, who appeared in *Bugs*; and Shaw Taylor, television presenter of *Police Five* — left badly out of pocket when Ms Hamper's company went into liquidation last year, owing more than £480,000. The four celebrities were owed about £300,000, the rest of the debts being due to other creditors.

Quentin, 39, recently described the amount she is owed as being "really most of the money I have earned in my life". In a statement, her new agents said: "In view of her former agent's insolvency there is no point in throwing more good money after bad.

Quentin: owed most of her career earnings

Claims have been made on her behalf to the liquidator of the company and Sharon Hamper's trustee in bankruptcy."

The tribunal made two orders: against Sharon Geraldine Toms-Smith, known as Sharon Hamper; and against her company Sharon Hamper Management Limited, formerly based in Great Queen Street, central London. The orders prohibit either Ms Hamper or the company from being concerned with any employment business for ten years, with immediate effect.

Equity, the actors' union, said there were dozens of unscrupulous agents operating in the country and called for action to control the unregulated industry. It is estimated that 4,000 showbusiness agents work in Britain, the majority of them honest. But many had little or no regard for their clients' welfare, a union spokesman said.

"We recognised from an early point that the lost money would not be recovered — that applies to all the people involved with Sharon Hamper Management," the spokesman said. "But it is very positive to know that she will not be able to practise in any capacity.

"We have been lobbying for revisions to the Agencies Act 1973 and have now entered into consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry to tighten up the Act. We knew for fours years before this case that Sharon Hamper was in financial problems. She had a very strong client base but her ethics were rather less than sufficient."

The department had argued that Ms Hamper was unsuited to running an employment business on the grounds that she was directly responsible for the agency's payment systems, and failed to pay clients their money. Evidence was also presented that the agency's client account was operated improperly, and that there was widespread withholding of money owed to actors.

The prohibition application was brought under the terms of the Employment Agencies Act 1973. The power to prohibit individuals from carrying on in business as employment agencies replaced the power to repeal the licences that were issued to such businesses.

Ian McCartney, Department of Trade and Industry minister for competitiveness, said he was delighted by the judgment. "These proceedings serve notice that the DTI will not hesitate to act against agencies behaving badly," he said. "This Government will not tolerate exploitation of people at work."

Sharon Hamper has been prohibited from working as a agent for maximum time

Hypnosis 'can induce false memories'

Study sheds new light on 'recalled' sex abuse, reports Nigel Hawkes

PLANTING false memories under hypnosis is relatively easy, even when the hypnotised person has been warned of the danger, American experiments have shown.

The results throw new light on "false memory syndrome", in which people are helped by therapists to "remember" events from the past that never happened. Several cases of alleged sexual abuse have been thrown out after courts were convinced that the memories were false.

Dr Joseph Green, of Ohio State University, and Professor Steven Jay Lynn, of the State University of New York, carried out the study in which 48 undergraduates were hypnotised. Before the session began, each was asked to select a night from the previous week when they were quite certain they had slept well.

In addition, 32 of the 48 were warned that hypnosis cannot make people remember things they would not ordinarily remember, and were read information about the imperfections of memory from guidelines published by the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis. The warnings were strengthened with statements such as "hypnosis does not improve memory" and that it "can lead to false memories". While hypnotised, the volunteers were asked to "relive" the night they had earlier selected. A researcher asked them if they had heard any loud noises at 4am such as a car backfiring or a door slamming.

After hypnosis, they were asked if they remembered hearing a loud noise that night. Among those who had not been warned, 44 per cent said that they had indeed heard the noise. Even among those who had been warned, 28 per cent said that they had. Dr Green presented the results of the study yesterday at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Chicago.

"There's a cultural expectation that hypnosis will lead to more accurate and earlier memories, but that's not true," he said. "Hypnosis can be helpful for some people, but it is subject to the same restrictions and pitfalls of any other memory-retrieval method."

The evidence was, he said, that warnings did not prevent people developing false memories under hypnosis. "The results suggest that warnings are helpful to some extent in discouraging pseudo-memories. But these limited warnings did not prevent pseudo-memories and did not reduce the confidence subjects had in those memories."

In a separate study presented at the same meeting, he showed that people who believe themselves to be hypnotised claim to remember things from much earlier in childhood. Dr Green said: "Many people believe that hypnosis can lead to earlier memories, although that has never been shown to be true. People's expectations about what hypnosis can do will influence what they remember."

The accuracy of memories recovered under therapy has long been a source of argument. In April a report prepared for the British Psychological Society by Dr Bernice Andrews, of Royal Holloway College, London University, backed the use of therapy, suggesting that accurate memories can be recovered.

But her report was criticised as unscientific by the False Memory Society, which represents parents who say they have been wrongly accused of abusing their children.

Last December a 44-year-old man was formally acquitted of sexually abusing a 22-year-old woman after psychological assessments indicated that her memories might be false.

> ‘People's expectation of what hypnosis can do will influence what they recall’

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Thirty missing women could be 'Lady in the Lake'

Paul Wilkinson on the quest for a victim's identity

DETECTIVES trying to unravel the murder mystery of the "Lady in the Lake" have been given the names of 30 missing women who fit the description of the body found in Coniston Water this week.

Fifteen police forces have contacted the incident room in Ulverston on the edge of the Lake District to check their missing person files with the Cumbria detectives. One name suggested by Merseyside Police is that of Helen McCourt, an insurance clerk from St Helens, who vanished in 1988, aged 22. Her body was never found. A man was convicted of her murder.

Experts believe that the body recovered on Wednesday by four amateur sub-aqua divers 75 ft down, on the lake floor, could have lain there for more than a quarter of a century. The woman was aged between 20 and 30, white, well-built, and 5ft 1in to 5ft 4in tall, with short brown hair. Her body was in a short, turquoise blue, 1960s-style nylon "baby doll" nightgown.

Yesterday, Miss McCourt's mother Marie, from Billinge, near Wigan, said: "I hope it is Helen's body, but I have had my hopes raised and then dashed so many times. We have been told that it could be a couple of weeks before the person's identity is known."

Cumbria police are also checking the file of Carol Park, from Barrow-in-Furness, 15 miles from where the body was found. Mrs Park was reported missing 21 years ago. [illegible] the officer, Detective Superintendent Ian Douglas, who is heading a murder squad of 30 officers, said that they were attempting to contact her relatives.

Mr Douglas added: "There has been a tremendous public response, with people coming forward with suggestions and information which we are assessing now."

He hopes that forensic scientists will be able to obtain a DNA sample from the body. "It could give us a good lead in telling us who this woman is. If there are any family still alive we could compare it with them. It would be a big help in confirming the identity of this poor person."

Mr Douglas's team has asked forces to submit dental records for comparison with the lady in the lake. The body will be X-rayed to see if the woman had borne children.

Forensic scientists have been helped in their task because decomposition was slowed by the low water temperature at the depth the body was found and because it was kept water-tight in two bin-liners, a canvas bag and a large rucksack or holdall, bound with rope and string. A metal weight had been attached.

The bundle was discovered by John Walsh, an engineer from Kendal, who was diving with his companions away from a training area close to the lake shore. They saw it by the light of underwater lanterns, protruding from the smooth bed. At first they thought it might be an outboard motor lost from a pleasure boat.

The nightdress is believed to have been made by a Manchester firm which moved to Essex in 1976. The canvas bag and the holdall are being examined for the identity of their manufacturers. "This is not like a normal murder inquiry where you can go at it full-speed straight away," said Mr Douglas.

"We have time to plan things out systematically. We are in the hands of the forensic experts to a certain extent; we must wait for their results."

Lord Dunmore, pictured with his wife, tried to save a colleague during fighting in India

Modest VC who wrote himself out of history

By Alan Hamilton

JOURNALISTS covering war zones often take great personal risks and, occasionally, pay for their dedication with their lives. But there is only one known case of a correspondent being awarded the Victoria Cross, and it happened a hundred years ago tomorrow.

The nation's highest decoration for valour went to the man from *The Times* for trying to save the life of a colleague from *The Times of India*.

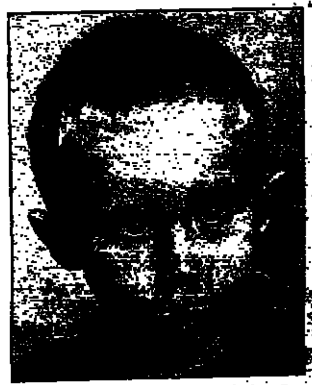
The definition of a journalist was perhaps a little looser then than now. Officers on remote battlefronts often supplemented their Army pay by acting as correspondents for newspapers which could not possibly afford to have a staff man at every outpost.

In August 1897, on the Northwest Frontier, the tribesmen were engaging in one of their periodic revolts against the British. Representing *The Times* on the expedition to quell the insurrection was a lieutenant in the Guides Cavalry, Alexander Murray, Viscount Fincastle. Reporting for the *Daily Telegraph* was another young officer in need of extra cash, Winston Churchill. During a fierce encounter at Nawa Kili in Upper Swat on August 17, Lord Fincastle galloped with two officers and five men of the Guides to the rescue of Lieutenant T.R. Greaves, of the Lancashire Fusiliers and *The Times of India*, who was lying on the ground surrounded by enemy swordsmen after being disabled by a bullet.

Lord Fincastle had his horse shot from under him, but under intense enemy fire he went forward and managed to lift Lieutenant Greaves on to another horse. Sadly, Lieutenant Greaves was hit again and killed, as was another rescuer, Lieutenant H.L.S. MacLean, who was awarded a posthumous VC. Gentlemen of *The Times* a century ago would never have dreamt of writing about themselves, and Lord Fincastle's despatch to the newspaper made no mention of his own role. It was left to *The Times*' correspondent in Simla to supply the full facts: "General Blood reports that Lord Fincastle, 16th Lancers, behaved with great gallantry at Landikai."

Lord Fincastle subsequently became the eighth Earl of Dunmore, dying in London aged 90 after further gallantry, including action at the Somme, where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Staff backed after death



Martin Hollis: drowned

STAFF who were supervising a five-year-old boy who drowned during a day-trip were defended yesterday by the head of social services.

The body of Martin Hollis was discovered in a lake at Fairlands Valley Park in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, on Thursday evening. Ian White, Hertfordshire County Council's head of social services, said: "There's no evidence that any of the staff were anything less than conscientious. They gave him a bit of chocolate and wiped his face. They turned round and he was gone."

Martin, who lived in Letchworth, was on a day out supervised by two workers and a volunteer from the Noel Family Centre in Letchworth, which helps families that have difficulty coping with their children.

Martin's father Melvin, 41, said: "Martin was a lovely and happy little boy. He was loved by everyone who knew him."

Police want to trace a woman and child seen with a boy fitting Martin's description at about 2.30pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man, 25, in court on body parts charge

A man charged with stealing body parts was remanded on bail when he appeared at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in central London. Niel Lindsay, 25, of Islington, north London, a former educational assistant at the Royal College of Surgeons, is accused of stealing anatomical specimens. He was bailed on condition he does not not take employment as an undertaker.

Gas 'killed girl'

Police believe Jessica Downes, 13, whose body was found behind a pub in Oldbury, West Midlands, died after experimenting with butane gas. She had suffered a head injury. Two boys, aged 13 and 14, who were being interviewed, have been released on police bail.

Dirty video

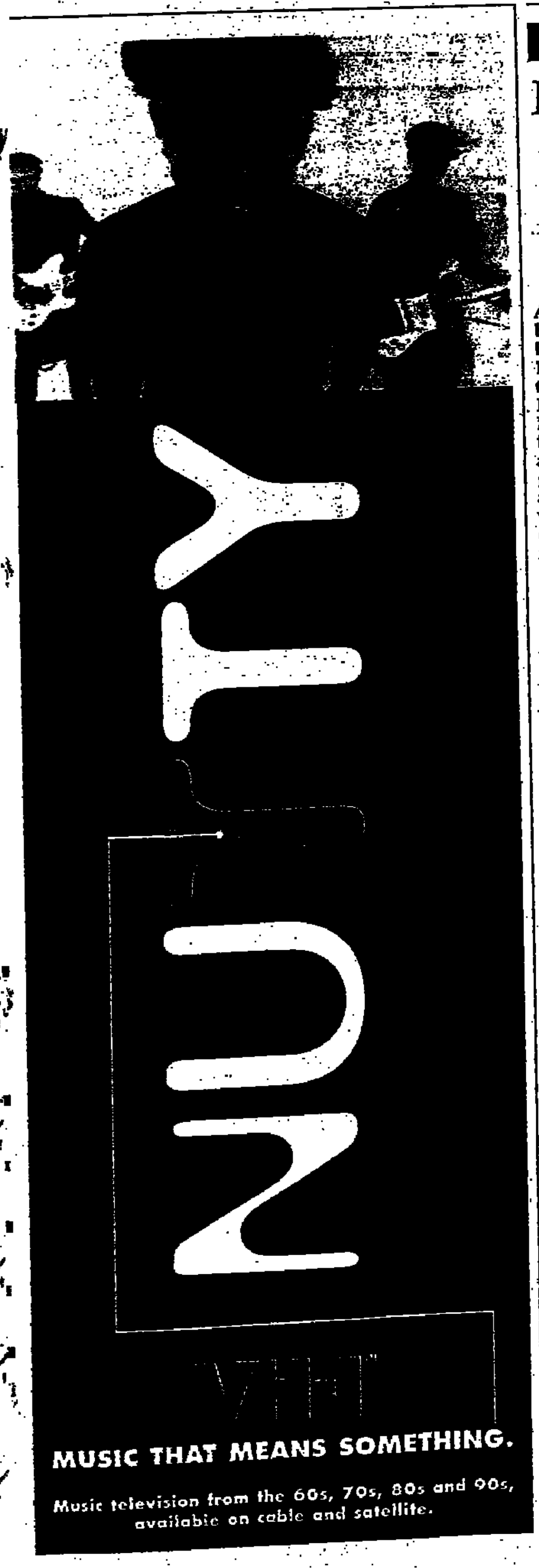
A man whose dog was caught on a security camera fouling a grass verge was taken to Cheltenham Magistrates' Court, fined £120 and ordered to pay £100 costs. Patrick Dare was reported by the owner of the camera, sited on business premises in Chipping Camden.

Penguin deaths

Dublin Zoo is investigating the sudden deaths of all but one of its 12 penguins. Preliminary post-mortem examinations have been inconclusive. They died soon after their enclosure was painted, but sources said painting was a regular occurrence and the same paint was always used.

Lot of dough

Britons spend an average of £32.70 a year on ready-made sandwiches, and £55.20 a year on other chilled foods such as pork pies, according to Datamonitor. One in six sandwiches is bought at a petrol station. The £3.5 bn-a-year industry is expected to grow by 5 per cent annually.



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T 16/8

Chronicle of the death that spells

The suicide of the Paisley MP Gordon McMaster has put the party on the defensive over sleaze in its Scottish strongholds and threatens to overshadow the referendum on devolution, reports **Dominic Kennedy**

When Tommy Graham *learnt that his name* was on the suicide note of his young Labour colleague Gordon McMaster, he made a prediction: "I'll *probably be the big bad ogre.*"

Mr Graham, the 20-stone MP for Renfrewshire West, is in deep trouble. Affidavits are being sworn saying that he not only called Mr *McMaster a "poofter"*, but that he described Irene Adams, MP for Paisley North, as a "hour".

All the old skeletons have come tumbling from his cupboard. His enemies have revived old claims of vote-rigging which led to two internal Labour inquiries. A murder trial this week threw the spotlight back on a dubious security firm whose directors included Mr Graham's election agent, Harry Revie. Even his purchase of a *holiday cottage in the Highlands*, which he named "Sunny Govan", has been attacked because he bought it from a council for £12,000 below the asking price.

The danger for Tony Blair is that the skeletons of old Labour will come tumbling out too. The prospect of a by-election disaster in Paisley South or a referendum *campaign being overshadowed* by sleaze must chill his spine. Paisley matters because it may show that the cleansing of new Labour has not reached the one-party heart*lands of Scotland*.

The troubles for Mr Graham multiplied a fortnight ago when Mr McMaster was found dead in his fume-filled car. A suicide note on *the windscreen* was addressed to his parents, his brother and sister-in-law, Mrs Adams, Tony Blair and the Chief Whip, Nick Brown. It said: "I hope Don Dixon [Lord *Dixon] and Tommy Graham can* live with themselves. I would rather be dead with my conscience than alive with theirs.

"I expect to go to Heaven, and I *don't expect to see them there. But if* I do, I hope it's in a dark alley." And he added: "Even after I'm dead they will keep on bad-mouthing me."

Mr McMaster, a 37-year-old *bachelor whose mother still cooked* for him, was depressed. He said he suffered from ME. He drank too much. And in June he suffered a badly injured hand when mugged *in a London street.*

But there were darker currents. The man who had been leader of Renfrew council at 28 and an MP at 30 had risen rapidly into the Whips *Office before being demoted to* disability spokesman. He thought Lord Dixon was responsible for this move. Second, he was convinced that Mr Graham was *behind a whispering campaign* which led to a local newspaper telephoning him during the election campaign to ask whether he had Aids. Mr Graham has denied this.

Tommy Graham, whose career Mr McMaster may yet posthumously destroy, was born in 1943 in Govan, the son of a carpenter's labourer. He became a machine-tool fitter at Rolls-Royce, joined the Labour Party and, by 1978, had been elected to Strathclyde council.

Facing him from the Conserva*tive benches was Anna McCurley.* "Tommy was an easy-going, typical kind of backwoodsman Labour, bit of a slob," she said. "Not well off — the wee wifey in the broon coat and the wean in the buggy."

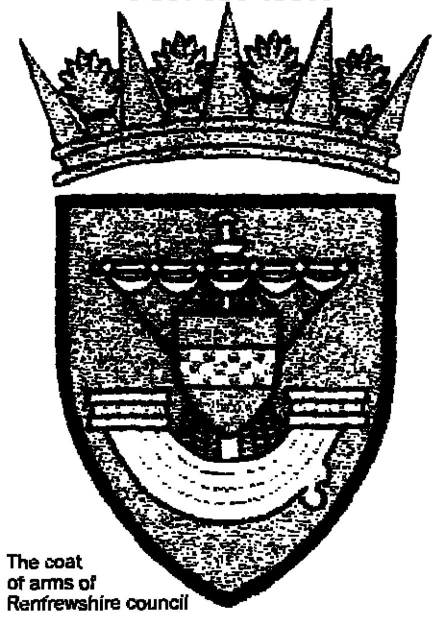
In 1983 Mr Graham surprised everyone by swapped his fitter's overalls for the comfortable swivel chairs of the solicitors Robertson and Ross, under the job title of office manager. The firm represented many of his local voters, and handled industrial-injury compensation claims.

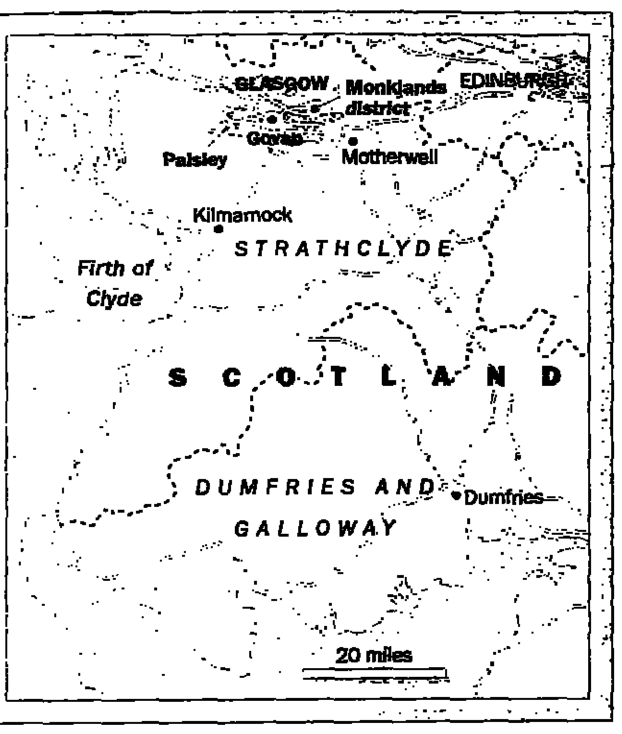
There he met Paul Mack, a young assistant hoping to pursue a legal career. Mr Mack is regarded as a sinister figure by Paisley politicians; he became a councillor and was once ejected from the chamber for calling an opponent a eunuch. His name figured on Mr McMaster's suicide note.

Two years later, Mr Graham was selected to fight the seat of Renfrew West and Inverclyde, then held by the Tories in the person of *Mrs McCurley.* "When he was appointed as the prospective candidate, we laughed," she said. But on

Continued page 9

A SAGA OF SCANDAL AND CORRUPTION


The coat of arms of Renfrewshire council



☐ **1994:** Labour Council inquiry into allegations of corruption, sectarianism and nepotism within *Monklands council.*

☐ **1995:** Scottish secretary orders inquiry into Monklands. Labour suspends all 15 councillors; internal inquiry clears councillors of main allegations but finds bad practices.

☐ **1995:** *internal Labour inquiry into allegations of* a campaign to deselect Paisley North MP Irene Adams by "stuffing" the local party with stooge members results in suspension of constituency party.

☐ **1996:** Labour inquiry into methods used to secure *nomination of Tommy Graham for the safe Labour* seat of Renfrewshire West exonerates Mr Graham.

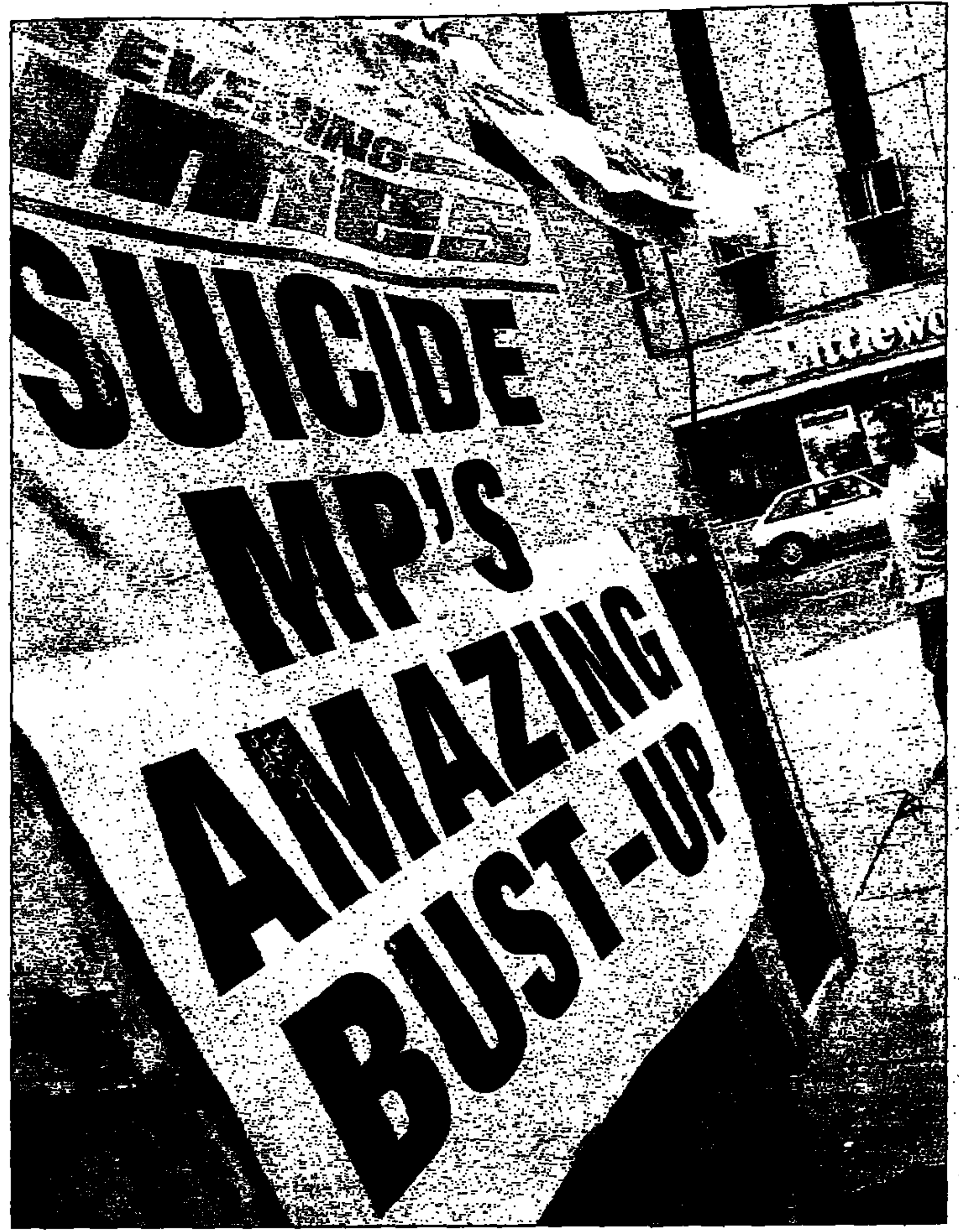
☐ **February 1997:** Labour inquiry into allegations by Bob Gould, Labour leader of Glasgow City Council, that he had been offered the votes of fellow councillors in return for trips abroad. Inquiry ongoing.

☐ **May 1997:** Labour inquiry into allegations of *bribery against Mohammad Sarwar*, Labour MP for Govan. Inquiry rules that Mr Sarwar has brought the party into disrepute and withdraws privileges. Police inquiry into allegations ongoing.

☐ **1997:** ongoing Labour inquiry into allegations of *smear campaign following suicide of McMaster.*

☐ **1997:** police conducting two inquiries in Paisley, into potential links between Labour members and organised crime and the events surrounding McMaster's death.

☐ ***1997:*** *police investigation* into allegations of housing fraud in Dumfries and Galloway, involving the daughter of a Labour councillor. A council inquiry has uncovered evidence of bullying and bad practice in the housing department of the council.



Gordon McMaster's suicide note has led to an internal party inquiry into events in Paisley

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danger in old Labour's heartland

KEN MACPHERSON

Tommy Graham in the Highland cottage he bought cheap from the council. *The former machine-tool fitter rose rapidly to become a Labour MP at the age of 43*

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Gordon McMaster, 37, MP for Paisley *South* who killed himself. A gentle giant popular with colleagues who warned whips that he was a suicide risk. He was persuaded not to jump into the Thames by a *Labour MP the previous month.* McMaster, a bachelor, he had admitted doubts to friends about his sexuality.

Tommy Graham, 53, neigh*bouring* MP. One of the few Scottish Labour MPs who *failed* to attend McMaster's funeral. A member of the unreconstructed blokish tendency of old Scots Labour, *despised* by Blairites. *Damaged* his defence in newspaper interview in which he described the late McMaster as a drunk.

Irene Adams, 48, *MP* for Paisley North. Exposed the whispering cam*paign* against McMaster, was devastated by *his* death. Determined to have justice and revenge, is working closely with McMaster family to achieve her aims. *Outspoken, but respected at* Westminster.

Lord Dixon, 68, former *MP for* Jarrow. Taciturn former Dep*uty Whip, who* blocked McMaster's path to promo*tion, which contributed* to his depression. Wielding great influence, he was unapologetic for the decision; felt McMaster could *not* take *the strain. Horrified to be* named in suicide note.

Nick Brown, 47, Chief Whip, dubbed *the Grand Inquisitor* after inheriting the poisoned chalice of the McMaster investigation. Quietly spoken, has avoided publicity. Until now. Was sent anonymous copy of the suicide *note.* Believes death unrelated to whispers. Arranged medical help for McMaster.

***Paul* Mack,** 41, friend of Graham's since *mid-1980s. Former* rising star of local Labour Party. *Desperate* for Westminster seat, but dumped by Labour two years ago for assaulting ex-girlfriend. *Plotted* with Graham to *oust McMaster and Adams* so they could run Paisley together. Building site worker.

From page 8

election night in 1987, it was Mr Graham who was laughing. The SDP alliance with the Liberals lost massive support and Mr Graham was an *MP* at 43.

"Parliament *meant* a good salary and a *better way of life,*" Mrs McCurley said. "Once *when* I was down at the Commons he was there. All his chins were out, and the belly was out, and the smiles were there. He was telling me he had just dropped £100 at Annabel's or one of the nightclubs."

But the new lifestyle was soon to be threatened by boundary changes. Mr Graham's powerbase of Linwood was about to be absorbed into the neighbouring constituency of Paisley North, won in 1990 by Irene Adams, widow of its previous MP.

According to Labour leaders, Mr *Graham prepared to oust* Mrs Adams. At the same time, Paul Mack had designs on Mr McMaster's seat of Paisley South.

If there ever was a hijack plot, it was clumsy and botched. Membership of Linwood branch shot from 57 to 199 in two months of 1993, many of the newcomers being pensioners who had no idea of what they were joining. Suspicions were aroused; Labour's Scottish executive held an inquiry and closed the Paisley North party.

But no action was taken against *Mr Graham. He bounced back when the Boundary Commssion* added to his constituency the overwhelmingly Labour town of Port Glasgow. He was to survive another internal inquiry last year.

But whatever the internal party skullduggery, it was taking place against the background of a drugs war in Paisley between two rival families. The town suffered 11 murders in a year.

The drug wars had uncomfortably close links with the Labour-controlled Renfrew council. In 1989 councillors had set up a firm, FCB *Security, supposedly to provide security guards for council and* business properties. It was launched with £193,000 of public money. The council gave it a £300,000 contract without approaching any rival firms and without placing it on the approved list of contractors. It had two *directors appointed by the council,* including Mr Revie, Mr Graham's election agent.

Mrs Adams' suspicions were aroused when constituents claimed that the security guards were dealing in drugs while guarding council property. She claimed that FCB *money was being used to buy* Labour *memberships.* She was supported by Mr McMaster and both MPs were given police protection after receiving death threats.

In November 1995, Stewart Gillespie, a local gangster, and other men wearing FCB uniforms burst *into the home of a local crime boss,* Mark Rennie. Gillespie gave a colleague a handgun and told him to shoot Rennie. The gun did not go off, but Rennie was shot dead six months later. Gillespie was jailed for life last year for his murder.

Since Mr McMaster's death, the *smears have continued.* A Scottish Nationalist *councillor told a news*paper that Mr McMaster had been having a relationship with an underage schoolboy, which the boy has denied. The SNP has suspended the councillor. Paul Mack told *The Sunday Times* last April that *Mr McMaster had HIV and was* believed to have been cohabiting with a Spanish waiter.

As the vultures gather around Mr Graham, support has come from an unexpected quarter. Mrs McCurley, whose political career he ended, said of him: "He is in it *up to his neck and he has got there* just by being *dumb.* I *never* thought of him as a backstabbing, evil man." But she doubts he will survive. "He is," she said, "classic scapegoat material."

☐ *Additional reporting by Gillian Bowditch and Andrew Pierce*

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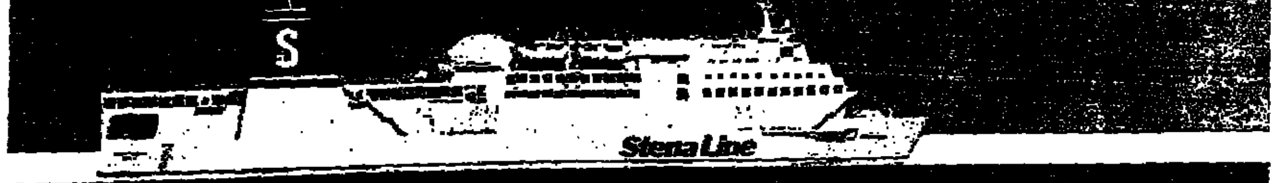

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Why fewer souls go the distance for St Patrick

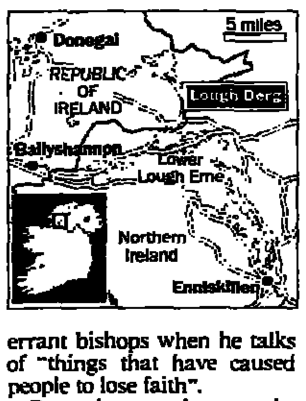
Martin Fletcher says the decline of one of the toughest pilgrimages in Christendom is a symptom of Ireland's increasing secularisation

TODAY'S pilgrims wear brightly coloured cagoules, but the rites they perform on St Patrick's Purgatory, a remote island surrounded by the black waters of Lough Derg and Donegal's bare green hills, have not changed in centuries.

They still deny themselves food and sleep. Clutching rosaries, muttering prayers, they hobble barefoot round the rocky remains of ancient monastic penitential beds. In sun or lashing rain they still stand against the basilica's cold stone wall — arms outstretched like Jesus on the Cross — and renounce the world, the flesh and the devil.

The change that has overtaken one of Christendom's toughest pilgrimages lies in *what you do not see*. On any day during the ten-week season that ended yesterday there *used to be thousands doing* penance on the island. Today the pilgrims are thinner on the ground. From a peak of nearly 35,000 in 1953, and 28,000 in 1988, *attendance has fallen to* just 13,000 in another example of how even Ireland is growing steadily more secular.

Mgr Richard Mohan, the *shrine's red-haired prior, cites* "a decline in religious practice all throughout the country". He blames "the Celtic tiger" — Ireland's booming economy — and a new affluence *that has* dulled people's spirituality and made winning the lottery today's equivalent of salvation. He also blames the Catholic Church, referring obliquely to the scandals involving paedophile priests and



errant bishops when he talks of "things that have caused people to lose faith".

But to those *staying* away he suggests that "something very valuable is happening here, that the experience of Lough Derg helps people get in touch *with themselves and what's at* the core of their being and things of real value". By testing the limits of their endurance they can grow.

In a cave on the island in the fifth century, St Patrick is supposed to have received a vision of purgatory as a halfway house between this world *and the next. Pilgrims have* been coming since medieval times. After the Reformation the pilgrimage was banned and the buildings razed, and in 1704 Parliament sought to deter pilgrims with a ten-shilling fine or public whipping, but nothing stopped them coming.

Today's *pilgrims* arrive on buses from Dublin or Sligo to do penance, give thanks, pray for miracles or search for peace of mind. Where the lone *track across the mountains* ends at the water's edge, old boats ferry them across.

Cameras, radios and mobile telephones are forbidden. All *footwear must be removed* — instantly destroying social status and revealing an amazing array of toenails. For three days the pilgrims eat just one *meal of dry toast and* black tea. They observe a 24-hour *sleepless* vigil, attend numerous services, and perform nine stations or prayer routines *that involve endless barefooted* circuits of the stony island while reciting 2,421 creeds, Hail Marys and Our Fathers. The midges are often unbearable, *and this flirtation* with purgatory costs pilgrims £16.

"If you put your trust in God you can do anything," said Julia Callaghan, a widow from County Louth who has come 113 times in 33 years to pray for the Pope, the Church and peace in Northern Ireland. "It feels like hell when you're here, but you feel like heaven when you leave," said a young female graduate from Tyrone who had come to pray for a job.

For David Devine, a Strabane farmer, "this is squaring the account up" — a way of thanking God each year. Harry Eastwood, a retired car dealer from County Dublin, recalled an old belief that three visits guaranteed passage to Heaven. "I've now done it 40 times so I hope things'll be good for me," he said.

Those are the purists, the truly devout. "Lourdes is a holiday. You book into a hotel. This to me is a real pilgrimage," said Mary Martin, a Dublin nurse. Tom Hanson, an elementary school teacher *from New York, is making his* thirty-seventh visit. "It's always difficult. It never gets any easier, but you get a totally wonderful feeling . . ."

But, confessed Margaret Humphreys, a Cork supermarket employee: "I am daydreaming about steak and chips and a nice bowl of soup."

CRISPIN RODWELL

Pilgrims walk and pray barefoot at St Patrick's Purgatory. Their numbers have fallen from 35,000 in 1953 to 13,000

Life without God is a poor kind of freedom

Emmanuel Ogundele

We live in an age when so much is compart*mentalised. Our* popular slogan is: "Everything must be kept separate so as to do away with as much ambiguity as possible." Unfortunately, our penchant for clarity in all areas of human endeavour has blinded us to the fact that man himself is a being riddled with ambiguity. No matter how much we want things clarified, at the end of *the day there are still more* questions than answers.

We have enstranged certain values that have helped society from times immemorial. Most scholars are inclined to say that science and religion are antithetical, or that anthropology, sociology, medicine and other disciplines should be given as much autonomy as possible so that their findings will be untrammelled by the influence of religion, especially Christianity.

But religion and morality are inseparable partners; they *cannot* be severed *from society* since they are intimately connected with how we live our lives and relate to the ultimate reality, or God.

However, in our post-modern society we have removed our support system, the entire fabric on which society was built, and we have fallen flat on our faces. We seem to have detached the religious dimension of human life from morality and expect to make a success story of our new *independence*. Thus, good and bad are only relative values. We are now ourselves the ultimate deciders of values, not minding whether there are values *that predate us*. We really need to look back to see whether we are better or worse with our newly won independence.

Christianity helped Western society to attain a high degree of morality, right up to the Victorian age. I am not saying all was perfect then, but for *any keen observer it is a fact* that morality has declined since the influence of Christianity waned in society.

There can be no denying that *all is not well* with society. There is no depth of soul or spirituality to help to stabilise and control our wonderful technical and scientific advancement. We need religion and morality to supply what is *needed if we are intent on* retaining our humanness, and even our sanity. While we leave open our doors to morality (which has become relative to us, no longer absolute), we proudly disallow religion from *entering. Before we know it*, we are beginning to produce human monsters.

I was chatting with someone not long ago who said that while he was aware society was sick, he prefers the present age to the one before, where there was no freedom. I asked him what he meant by freedom. His answer was: "People are able to express themselves now more than ever. You can now dress the way you like, think the way you like and do *what* you want to do without any *serious* parental or religious controls."

This was where he went wrong. Freedom, if properly understood, goes with *responsibility*. If a pornographic and erotic culture is freedom, then something is amiss. If child abuse, lack of a sense of shame, murder, *arson*, alcoholism, drug use, burglary, corruption, perjury, mugging, racism and hydra-headed immorality is freedom, then we need a *rethink*.

We must think about what, in the past, helped society to be almost an exact opposite of what it is today. If we think that to be *without* God and religion is to be free, we are perhaps in a much greater bondage than before, because a life without God will be filled with something worse than God. We need a remarriage of morality and *religion to help* to halt the abysmal drop in the standard of morality in society today.

The Rev Emmanuel Ogundele, 33, is the acting head of the department of philosophy at *Sts Peter and Paul* Major Seminary, Ibadan, Nigeria. Last year he was refused a British entry visa from Louven University, in Belgium, forcing the priest he was to relieve to cancel his holiday. This year he was granted a visa by the British Embassy in Lagos and is currently *helping out as a holiday* relief priest at St Matthew's, Liverpool. Many Roman Catholic priests rely on holiday reliefs from abroad. Last week John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, intervened on behalf of six of Father Ogundele's colleagues studying at Louven who were unable to obtain visas for Britain.

At Your Service
Weekend, page 14

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The wheels come off centenarians' flight of fancy

Kathryn Knight follows a group of 100-year-olds whose first time in an aeroplane could be their last

EIGHTY sprightly centenarians flew into London yesterday in what is thought to be the world's largest gathering of 100-year-olds. Armed with wheelchairs and walking sticks, they arrived at City Airport for a special sightseeing tour and lunch.

Many of the party, including some of the Britons who had flown to Belgium on Thursday to meet their fellow centenarians, had never been in an aeroplane before. Mary Ellen from Newcastle upon Tyne, who was born in 1894, thought it "the best way to travel ... I've loved every minute". She now considered herself an old hand. "Can't wait for next time".

It could be there won't be a next time. The day turned into something of a shambles when the sightseeing tour ran out of time and lunch at the Marlborough Hotel had to be cut short so that the party could get back to the airport in time.

The trip was dreamt up by Freddy Van Gaener, the managing director of the Belgian airline VLM, when he heard that his secretary's centenarian mother had never flown before. Together with Sabena, he set about organising the gathering.

The group were accompanied by relatives and carers. One relative, who did not wish to be named, said: "We are not very happy. My mother has travelled from Durham to London to Antwerp, back to London and will be going back to Durham, all in around 36 hours. She didn't even get to see Antwerp and she was disappointed that there was no time for a coach tour in London today."

The centenarians did hear a personal message from Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at lunch. Most of the British contingent were quietly proud that the Queen Mother, a mere 97, was not old enough to join them. Ann Harris, from Kent, had a message for her: "I've had to work hard all my life. But a bit of good living and a good healthy belly does you no harm."

Robbie Burns, a 101-year-old from Glasgow, was no stranger to flying. The last remaining Cameron Highlander who fought in the First World War, including the Battle of the Somme, he has travelled round the world twice since his wife died 30 years ago. Asked if he was enjoying himself, he replied with a wink: "It's all free, isn't it?"

The centenarians had gathered in an hotel in Antwerp on Thursday night to prepare for their flight to London. "They had quite a knees-up," said Elaine Finch, from the servicemen's charity, SSAFA, who sponsored the English contingent. "Some of their children had to go to bed before them because they couldn't take the pace."

However, after things started to go wrong yesterday, a spokeswoman for the charity said they were unhappy with the arrangements and did not think the experience would be repeated.

KEVIN LAMARQUE

Maria During from Belgium, aged 101, waiting to be helped from the aircraft at City Airport yesterday. From there the trip went downhill

Rail firms told to answer calls

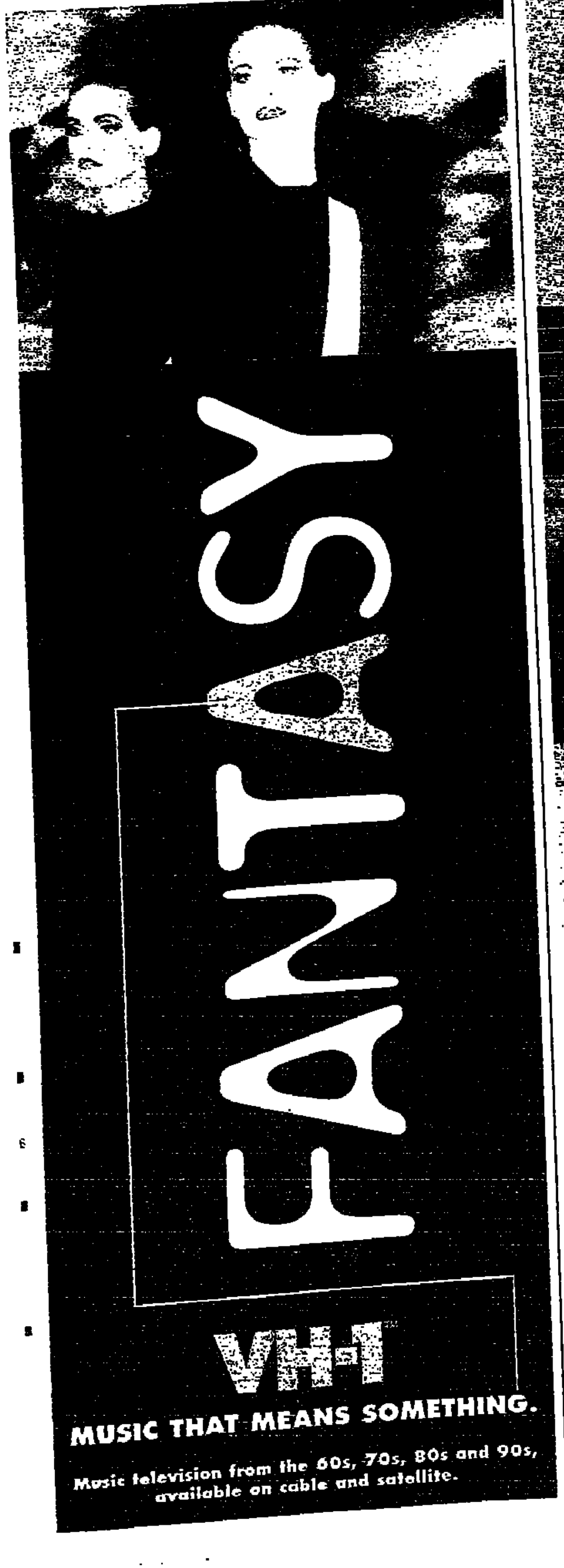
By Arthur Leathley, Transport Correspondent

RAIL companies will be fined more than £400,000 next month unless they improve their telephone inquiry service. The rail regulator said yesterday that too many calls were going unanswered and gave train operators four weeks to meet targets.

John Swift issued an enforcement order requiring train operators to answer nine in ten calls by September 14. If the train companies, who jointly run the national service, fail to improve on their current 82 per cent response rate, they face a total fine of £450,000. Should there be a decline in the standard of service, which he found to have improved, they could face fines of more than £1 million.

Management consultants said that the target fell well below standards elsewhere in the private sector. Many companies set targets of answering 90 per cent of calls within 15 seconds. The rail regulator sets no time limit, although unanswered calls are generally automatically cut off after three minutes. David Naylor, of TSC Europe, said: "Simply setting a target for answering the telephone is only scratching the surface. You have to know what happens when the call is answered, what information is given, how long is spent with the customer and many other issues."

The rail regulator plans to set tougher targets for companies once they succeed in answering nine out of ten calls, pushing for 95 per cent of those calls to be answered within 30 seconds. Mr Swift has also set up an investigation into the quality of service; the results will be published next month.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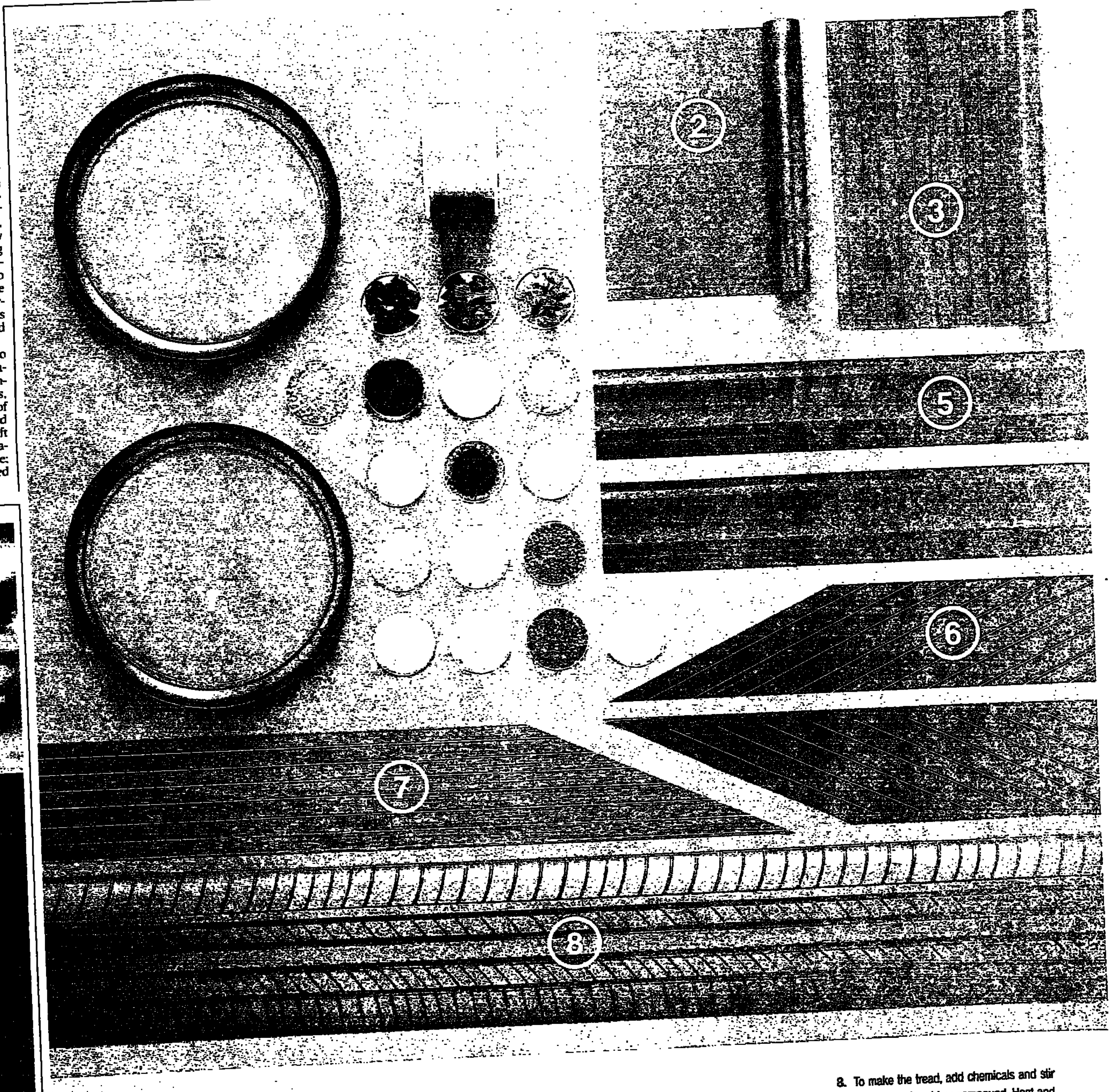

MOST GERMAN RECIPES PRODUCE TOUGH, INEDIBLE RESULTS. THIS ONE IS NO EXCEPTION.

Ask a German for his favourite recipe and you won't be surprised if it's inedible. Nevertheless, we bring you this highlight from the Continental tyre engineers' recipe book. At least you know this dish is *meant* to be rubbery.

1. First make your basic rubber compound using natural and synthetic rubber, sulphur, resin, aromatic oil, carbon black, stearic acid, cobalt stearate, wax and a unique blend of vulcanisation and anti-oxidant chemicals. These are probably not the sort of ingredients you have at home – unless you're a Continental tyre engineer. Mix, then test (but don't taste) for consistency.
2. Make an airtight inner liner by rolling butyl rubber into a wide thin layer and trim. This will ensure your tyre rises nicely and doesn't go flat.
3. In a calendering machine, make body plies to form the tyre's carcass. The carcass gives the tyre its strength and also cushions you, even on roads lumpier and bumpier than German custard.
4. With brass-coated steel cords, form a circle to make the tyre 'beads'. These will make sure your tyre sits securely on the wheel rims.
5. Take two strips of rubber and form the outer sidewalls. These protect tyres from bangs and scrapes, and the chemicals added earlier help reduce the harmful effects of ozone and the sun. (Our engineers hate to see their pride and joy looking anything less than perfect.)
6. Now cover brass-coated steel with rubber to make belt plies. Place under the tread, to provide longer life and a better shape. Not what you normally associate with German cooking.
7. Make the cap plies by embedding nylon in rubber to form a bandage over the belt plies and under the tread. This improves high speed handling and stability.
8. To make the tread, add chemicals and stir into the basic rubber compound. Heat and pass through an extruder.

You'll now need your tyre building machines. Combine the bead, inner liner, carcass, sidewalls, belt plies and tread. Spray the outside of the tyre with lubricant and the inside with silicon.

Place in a vulcanising mould and cook for 10 minutes at 150°C and 12 bar of pressure. Remove and leave to cool. You've now made a very tasty Continental tyre.

Of course, if you can't be bothered with all the preparation, you can always get a takeaway from your local tyre dealer.

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Russian kept his sex slaves underground

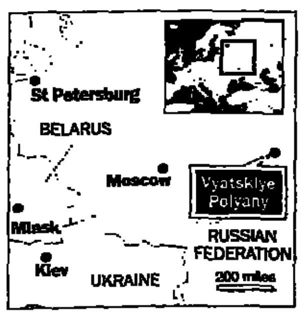
FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

A MIDDLE-AGED carpenter arrested in a remote town in central Russia has confessed to enslaving half a dozen young women who were kept for years in a large underground prison. Aleksandr Komin, 44, has admitted four murders and kidnapping and enslaving six people, three of whom he had sex with.

The secret prison was revealed late last month when a distraught young woman in the town of Vyatskiye Polyany, about 400 miles east of Moscow near the city of Kazan, ran into a police station and said she had been held as a slave in a cavernous cellar.

Although the police did not believe her, officers sent to investigate discovered a 30ft deep complex of living quarters and workrooms beneath a garage.

They also found the only two survivors of Komin's private prison. The two women, who were in their thirties, had the word "*Rab*" — Russian for slave — tattooed on their foreheads and had not seen daylight for more than two years, since their capture.



Dmitri Seryukov, a reporter who broke the story in the daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda* newspaper, said yesterday: "It was the creepiest sight I have ever seen. A metal staircase led very deep underground. To think those poor people lived there for all that time — it was haunting."

Komin built the labyrinth with a friend over several years. Once it was ready he invited young women, usually divorcées with few local ties, for a drink. He would spike their vodka with sleeping pills. When they awoke Komin would tell them their lives above ground were over and they were beginning a new existence in his "Co-operative Prison".

Most of the time the women were used as manual labour to enlarge the cellar or to sew clothes such as men's underwear, which he sold at the local market. The idea apparently dawned on Komin because he had served three years in a Soviet labour camp.

Only once did he attempt to imprison a young man — a former paratrooper — when he wanted heavy manual work done. However, Zhenya Shishov refused to co-operate and eventually Komin electrocuted him. Another man, whose girlfriend became a slave, was also murdered, and two of the women were similarly disposed of once Komin had become bored with them as sex slaves. Their bodies were left on the town's rubbish dump. The prisoners were frequently handcuffed or had dog collars around their necks, although escape was almost impossible since the metal staircase — the only means of leaving — was electrified.

Komin would probably have been able to keep his private penal colony going for many more years undetected had he not fallen in love with his last victim, Irina Ganushkina, who he captured in February.

She announced that she was pregnant after having regular sex with him and he proposed an underground wedding. She agreed, but insisted she had to make preparations and was allowed out on a shopping trip. She alerted the police.

Komin has told them he regrets his actions, which appear to have been partly an act against women because his first wife was repeatedly unfaithful. A few years ago he would have been executed, but that is less likely now as Russia phases out capital punishment. He says he is prepared to die, but if he is imprisoned threatens to use his tunnelling skills to escape.

REUTER

A policeman confronts a crowd of about 2,000 Islamists protesting in Istanbul yesterday over a secularist education Bill. Clashes started after the marchers' route was blocked by police, who used water cannon to disperse the crowd

Cyprus peace talks collapse as Greek pilgrims visit north

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

MORE THAN 600 Greek Cypriots crossed into northern Cyprus yesterday on a pilgrimage to a remote monastery regarded as the Orthodox faithful's holiest site on the island. Their visit was the first by so many Greek Cypriots since the Turkish invasion in 1974.

"I'm happy because I'll be seeing these places for the first time in 23 years, but sad because I won't get the chance to see my house there," said Constantinos Savvides, 74, as he walked past the barbed-wire barricades into the short stretch of UN-patrolled land that divides Nicosia, the capital.

For the scores of younger Greek Cypriots, including many children who had not even been born in 1974, it was a day to remember. "I am excited to see what I never saw before, to see the place where my father grew up," said Maria Zariou, 16.

But the pilgrims returned to gloomy reports from Switzerland that five days of high-level talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders aimed at reuniting the island had ended in failure after Rauf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, refused to drop objections to the island's possible entry into the European Union.

"At the end of the week we are exactly where we were when we came here," said President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader. He called on the United Nations Security Council to take action against the Turkish side.

But Mr Denktas laid the blame firmly on Brussels, saying that the EU's recent decision to include Cyprus in a list of six candidates for membership "threw a bombshell at the talks".

Nevertheless, the Greek pilgrims refused to allow their day to be spoilt. Most of them carried cameras to record the momentous occasion, as well as large candles to light during a special service at the imposing Monastery of St Andreas, perched by the sea at the tip of the Karpas peninsula, some 80 miles from Nicosia.

Their visit was made possible by a recent agreement between Mr Clerides and Mr Denktas to improve contacts between the two sides and to co-operate on humanitarian issues. It came in the wake of the visit earlier this year of Turkish Cypriot pilgrims to an important Islamic shrine in the Greek Cypriot south.

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Iran sought Pretoria nuclear deal

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

IRAN has tried to buy items needed for the production of nuclear weapons from South Africa.

A detailed shopping list, presented to the head of South Africa's Atomic Energy Corporation by Reza Amrollahi, Iran's Deputy Minister of Atomic Afairs, was rejected by stunned officials, according to a report to be published in a British defence magazine.

Dr Waldo Stumpf, head of the corporation, said he was handed a file after a meeting that took place early last year in Pelindaba near Pretoria. "It contained a comprehensive list of items needed for manufacturing nuclear weapons," he said. "There were some very advanced things asked for; blueprints, industrial, chemical and laboratory equipment, and other essentials required for the production of weapons of mass destruction."

Dr Stumpf told the Iranian minister that, in accordance with the provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, under no circumstances could he or members of his staff comply.

R.F. "Pik" Botha, then the Minister of Energy Affairs, has confirmed he attended the meeting, which was apparently organised by President Mandela's office, the September issue of *Jane's International Defence Review* says. The report mentions that South Africa, a de facto nuclear power, was a key destination on Iran's worldwide shopping trip for nuclear technology which also took its officials to Ukraine and Central Asian countries.

It says Tehran has made "considerable progress" in its quest towards developing nuclear weapons. Quoting South African Defence Force officials, it reveals that an undisclosed number of technicians made redundant by the scrapping of the South African nuclear programme have been hired by Iran.

South Africa has stopped manufacturing weapons-grade uranium, but still retains wide expertise in the field of nuclear technology. Even though the Iranians apparently left empty-handed, news of the meeting will raise concern over Iran's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons.

It has also cast a spotlight on Iran's manipulation of the close relationship it has developed with South Africa to the chagrin of the United States. South Africa buys two thirds of its oil from Iran. The United States last year expressed its displeasure over the red-carpet treatment that was afforded to a high-profile delegation of visiting Iranian government officials.

☐ **Weapons sales:** Congo-Brazzaville government troops are using South African armoured vehicles, rockets, mortars and other materiel described by Pretoria as non-lethal. The South African weekly *Mail and Guardian* interviewed unnamed French sources in Paris who said the weapons included multiple-rocket launchers delivered to Pointe-Noire. *(AFP)*

Anniversary in India sees outpouring of despair on corruption

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

INDIA awoke on its 50th anniversary of independence yesterday to an unprecedented outpouring of despair in the editorial columns of practically every newspaper, echoing in sometimes brutal language the sense of failure and betrayal that are felt across much of South Asia, home to one fifth of humanity.

What should have been a day to celebrate turned into an occasion of lamentation. The tone was set by Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, whose call for a mass movement to fight corruption in politics and the bureaucracy touched the country's rawest nerve.

Every Indian is affected by corruption: the police, politicians and most civil servants are despised for making life almost impossible. Some of the nation's best known politicians face corruption charges, although it is rare for powerful political figures to go to jail or lose their ill-gotten fortunes. Editorial writers are unanimous in declaring that corruption is now so rampant it directly threatens democracy.

Mr Gujral, known for his integrity, called corruption a curse on the country, poisoning politics and making life harder for ordinary Indians. Everyone should refuse to pay bribes and to report those asking for them, even if they were members of his Cabinet.

Gujral addressing the nation yesterday

The Times of India said in a front-page commentary that the dream of 50 years ago had become a nightmare. Idealism had been replaced by cynicism. The pursuit of power had blinded politicians, whose disregard for values and decency was matched by greed and untamed ambition.

The theme was pursued in the paper's editorial column, which noted that a third of the country's population subsisted below the poverty line and more than 20 million children were enslaved in bonded employment, often in life-threatening conditions. "A disgust with politics as it is practised appears to be taking root in a soil increasingly receptive to the seeds of authoritarianism by any other name," it said.

The Hindu noted that a commitment to democracy had, for the most part, been India's greatest strength, but went on to declare that the "tryst with destiny" proclaimed by Jawaharlal Nehru 50 years ago had not been fulfilled. It said 350 million people lived in poverty and 450 million were illiterate. "Confronting the squalid reality of these figures 50 years later, it is clear that the Indian state still faces the primary test of its moral authority in demonstrating a capacity and will to overcome these grim problems."

REUTER

Some of the hundreds of youngsters who joined a Delhi protest against child labour

A columnist in *The Pioneer* spoke of the stark, numbing reality of all-pervasive despair on the nation's 50th anniversary. "The descent from the sunlit peak of 1947 to the dark depth of 1997 is too shocking to be shrugged off casually. It is not only a sad commentary on the use we have made of 50 years of freedom but has very disturbing implications for the future."

The Hindustan Times acknowledged that there were plenty of failures, but noted: "This country has shown to the world that poverty and illiteracy and a population of bewildering plurality are not antithetical to sustaining a vibrant democracy with all freedoms, especially the freedom of thought and expression." India had built an industrial base capable of matching many developing economies of the world. It had the third largest scientific and technological manpower and was a member of the exclusive clubs of nuclear and space "haves". It insisted, unique among yesterday's papers, that the country had fulfilled its tryst with destiny.

☐ **Guwahati:** Six people were killed in India's northeastern region in scattered incidents of violence, and separatists led a general strike coinciding with independence celebrations, police said yesterday.

Separatist guerrillas shot four people dead in three overnight attacks in Assam, according to police in the state's biggest city, Guwahati.

Separatist militants also blew up a bridge in the central section of the state and set fire to a small railway station on the main track connecting the region with the rest of India. Tribal guerrillas killed two Bengali-speaking Hindus at Teliamura in Tripura on Thursday night, while six separatist groups in Tripura, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland states called last month for a general strike on Independence Day and a boycott of celebrations marking 50 years of freedom from British rule.

Two tribal groups demanding that separate provinces be carved out of Manipur and Tripura joined the strike.

In other developments, two bomb blasts occurred in Nagaland, but no one was injured, the Press Trust of India reported. One of the explosions occurred minutes after the state's Chief Minister gave an Independence Day speech.

"Life is normal in all parts of the state," Nepal Das, a senior police official, said in Agartala, Tripura's capital. He said paramilitary troops had been deployed in the state. *(Reuter)*

Letters, page 19

WORLD SUMMARY

Colombia to seize drug cash

Bogotá: The Colombian Constitutional Court's endorsement of a law allowing the seizure of assets acquired with drug money has been welcomed as a big step in the fight against drug trafficking (Victoria Burnett writes).

"This marks the beginning of the end of a history of violence, drug trafficking and corruption," said Claudia Blum, a Liberal Party senator and one of the law's original proponents.

The law, passed by Congress last December, was questioned on the ground that it violated the individual's right to private property. The court voted three to six to uphold it late on Wednesday. Because the law is retroactive, the state can now seize assets belonging to major traffickers. The cartels own millions of pounds worth of properties.

Leading article, page 19

Kenya fighting strands tourists

Mombasa: Hundreds of tourists were stranded as more Kenyan security forces were sent in to tackle marauders who have killed at least 21 people around this Indian Ocean port.

Police closed the road from Mombasa to beach resorts and tourists were urged not to leave hotels as police and troops fought gun battles with about 100 armed men. *(AFP)*

Matron kills 18

Cairo: Aida Nur el-Din, 42, a matron, is in a coma after allegedly admitting killing at least 18 patients and then attempting suicide. She reportedly acted so that she would not be disturbed at night. *(AP)*

Judge let off

Lima: Peru's Interior Ministry has reversed its decision to charge Judge Elba Minaya Calle with terrorism for ordering the release of a woman with alleged links to rebel guerrilla groups. *(AFP)*

Olive branch

Tokyo: The North Korean and Japanese Governments announced that they will for the first time in nearly five years hold talks in Beijing next week on eventually establishing diplomatic relations. *(AP)*

Ferries sink

Manila: At least four Hong Kong tourists and 12 Filipinos died and 75 people were believed to be missing after two ferry boats sank in separate incidents in Manila and the central Philippines. *(AP)*

Words of love

Beijing: A Chinese bridegroom, who lost the power of speech 21 years ago when his first wife divorced him, suddenly found his voice again at his wedding banquet with his new bride. *(Reuter)*

Dhaka students burn plotters' effigies

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
IN DHAKA

STUDENTS yesterday burnt effigies of five alleged plotters of the 1975 coup in which Bangladesh's founder, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed, as a report said ten suspected fugitives had been tracked down.

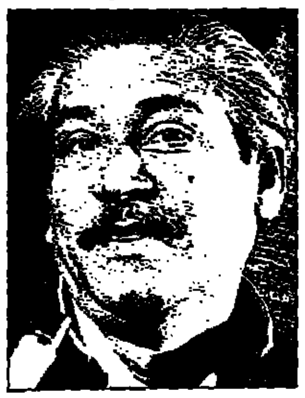
The demonstrations came as Bangladesh mourned its slain leader, assassinated 22 years ago to the day. Tens of thousands of tearful mourners streamed to the home — now a museum — and the grave of Sheikh Mujibur in his family village of Tungipara, 70 miles from the capital. They placed wreaths or just a flower in both places.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed accompanied the slain leader's daughter, the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, to place wreaths at the foot of his portrait in the museum as a military band played the *Last Post*. The red-and-green national flag flew at half mast and many places flew black flags in memory of the man who led the country to independence from Pakistan in 1971.

Students at Dhaka University set fire to effigies of five of the alleged coup plotters, demanding that they be tried by a special tribunal. "Keeping the self-confessed killers untried for the past two decades was the root cause of terrorism and anarchy in the country and the trial will end that," Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, a teacher and leader of an anti-fundamentalist group, said. Hundreds of students watched as the effigies of retired army officers Farooq Rahman, Bazlul Huda, Shariful Huq Dalim, Abdur Rashid and Shahrier Rashid Khan went up in flames while riot police stood by. The *Sangbad* and *Bhorer Kagoj* newspapers, quoting unidentified official sources, said ten of those wanted in connection with the coup had been traced; four others were in hiding.

The trial of the 19, accused of taking part in the Augsut 15, 1975, coup opened in January, but only five are in court with the rest being tried in absentia.

Yesterday reports claimed that one of the key plotters of the putsch was in Britain. Other suspects were hiding in Canada, the United States, Germany, Zimbabwe, Libya and Hong Kong.



Sheikh Mujibur: flags flown in his memory

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Democracy campaigners attack new election law in Hong Kong

FROM REUTER
IN HONG KONG

THE China-backed Hong Kong Government yesterday published a new election law that will curtail democracy in the former British colony. The move provoked condemnation from pro-democracy activists.

Revealing the draft election law for the first time, Michael Suen, the Constitutional Affairs Secretary, said the public should not be "petty-minded" over the issue of only one-third of the 60-seat Provisional Legislature being returned by geographical constituencies in next May's polls.

The remaining 40 seats will be filled by representatives from business and professional bodies in so-called functional constituencies, and by an election committee made up of pro-China politicians, businessmen and professionals.

"Whatever else regarding the election committee, the functional constituencies, I do look upon them as expedients — transient arrangements which will not last," Mr Suen told a news conference. "Our main focus should be on direct election." He said the Government would present the draft law to the China-anointed Provisional Legislature next Wednesday, hoping it would be passed by the end of September.

Under the new arrangements, more than two million people who were eligible to vote in the 1995 Legislative Council polls' functional constituencies would be disenfranchised. They would be replaced by corporate votes numbering no more than 200,000.

The pro-democracy movement in the territory attacked the plan. "The majority of the seats in the Legislative Council will be dominated by the rich and the powerful, and the pro-Communists, so this system is fraudulent, undemocratic and bad. It should be exposed and condemned." Emily Lau, the ousted pro-democracy legislator, said.

Along with the members of the territory's popular Democratic Party, she was thrown out of office on July 1 when Britain returned Hong Kong to Chinese rule. They were replaced by members of the Provisional Legislature. Lee Wing-tat, another ousted Democratic Party legislator, said: "This . . . arrangement is designed for those who Mr Tung wants to see elected." Mr Lee was referring to Hong Kong's Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa.

Britain's chief diplomat in Hong Kong, Francis Cornish, welcomed the plan to hold the election as early as May, but voiced misgivings about curtailing democracy.

☐ **Children arrive:** Dozens of children who were born in China, some of whom had been stranded there for years without their families, walked across the border to be with their parents in Hong Kong. About 66,000 are waiting to join their families.

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

The King's Memphis gets all shook up

From Tunku Varadarajan in Memphis

MEMPHIS has been an exceptionally bizarre place during this "20th Elvis Anniversary Week" and can be best described as a cross between Lourdes and Disneyland, or Fatima and Butlin's. Thousands of people from all over the world, all dressed and coiffed identically, have been shuffling around the city in a happy stupor, medieval pilgrims in the Age of the Internet.

There are Elvises here from everywhere. This correspondent has met a "Viking Elvis" from Bergen in Norway; a group of "Elvis Bravehearts" from Glasgow; Australian Elvises, each with stuffed koala toys wearing sequined jumpsuits and hundreds and hundreds of Japanese Elvises. "Japan is the true home of the King," said Yuichi Takehana, from Sapporo.

The *pièce de résistance*, however, and the man who has attracted the most admiring glances, is a certain "Elvis Singh", a Sikh complete with headgear and long sideburns. To the delight of all, he croons: "I don't do drugs, I don't drink bourbon, all I wanna do is to shake my turban."

The animal kingdom stole the limelight from Elvis for a few hours yesterday after a nurse gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a dying chimpanzee in the emergency ward of a Methodist hospital.

Unlike Elvis, the anniversary of whose death will be marked by an outbreak of emotion today, the chimpanzee still lives. The simian is called Priscilla, the name of the King's wife, and the loonier elements here have lost no time in describing the episode as "a sign from Elvis".

Yesterday a spokesman for the First Presleyterian Church of Elvis the Divine said: "Priscilla the chimpanzee is Elvis's way of telling us that he's in Memphis today, sharing with us its air, heavy with the scent of the holy Mississippi River."

There are no black Elvises, however — not a single one. That this should be so in a city with a black majority is intriguing. But black faces have been conspicuous in their absence this week from Beale Street, downtown Memphis's central drag. There are black cooks in the restaurants — rustling up Elvis Gumbo, Presley chitlins, Heartbreak Hotel ribs, Blue Suede chicken wings (spicy as momma's) — and even some black waitresses and bands. But no black revellers, black men with quiffs, or black men in jumpsuits.

Elvis is regarded by most of Memphis's black people as a "white guy who stole our music". They do not resent him, of course, for he freely admitted his musical debts to gospel and the blues. They are, quite simply, indifferent to him. "He's not ours," one old man said, shrugging his shoulders.

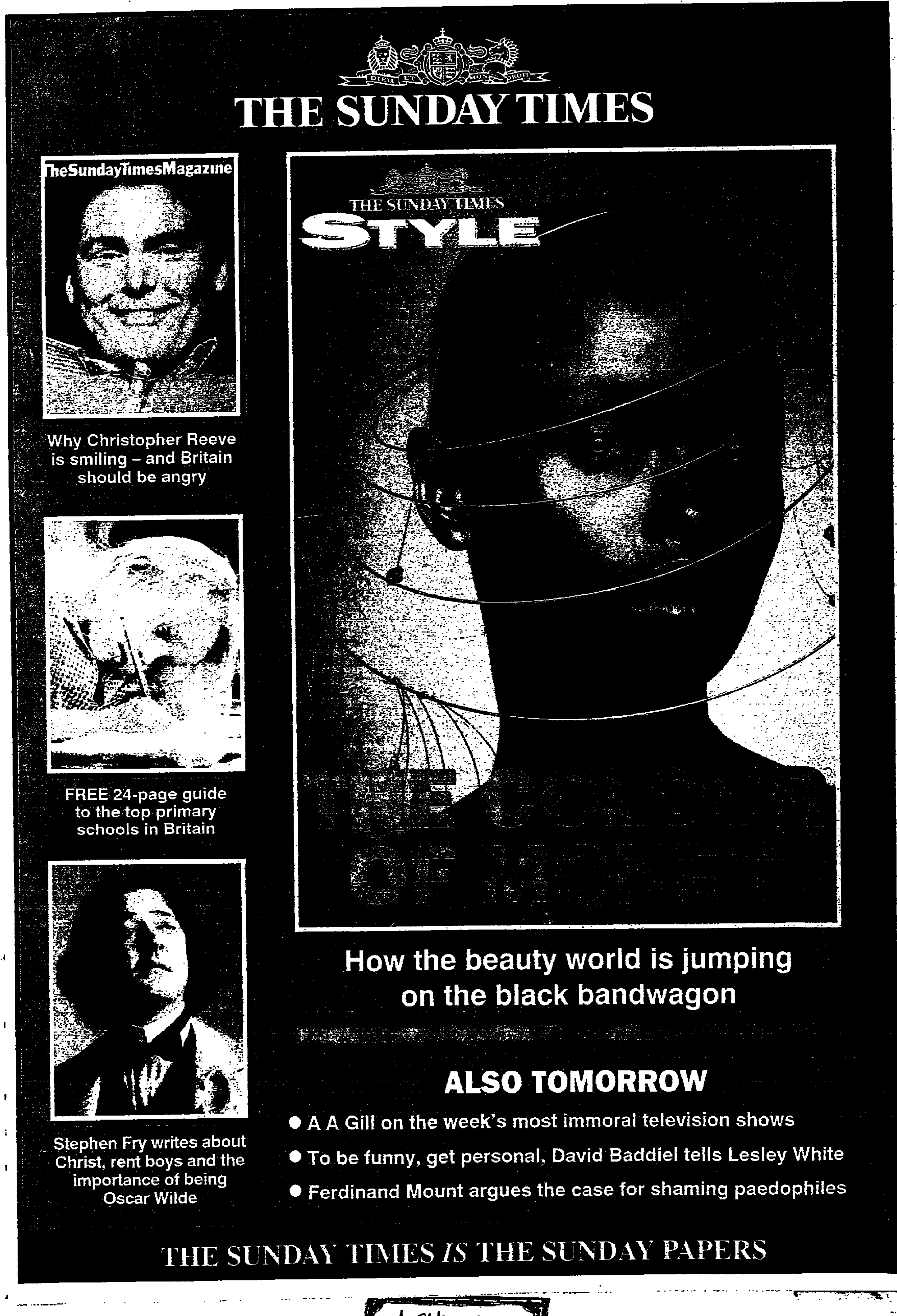
Some visitors this week have not only supped on Memphis's famed barbecue cuisine, they have also tasted the city's darker flavours. "Elvis tourists", identifiable from a mile away, have been carjacked at gunpoint. They have been mugged, robbed and assaulted, and the police are working overtime.

The most serious incident for the devotees, however, has not been criminal, but artistic. Hundreds of angry Elvises are picketing the gates of the Memphis College of Art, where the winner of a competition for a picture with an Elvis theme was a drawing called *Elvis eaten by ants*. One man said: "She's not a winner, she's a sinner. Didn't Elvis say, 'Don't be cruel'?"

Leading article, page 19

ROBERTO SCHMIDT / AFP

The Graceliners, an all-female group, perform an impromptu Presley song outside Graceland, Elvis's home



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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How the beauty world is jumping on the black bandwagon

ALSO TOMORROW

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- To be funny, get personal, David Baddiel tells Lesley White
- Ferdinand Mount argues the case for shaming paedophiles

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Ethics storm builds over the Clintons' free holiday

From Ian Brodie in Washington

A ROW was brewing yesterday over President Clinton's rent-free holiday at the home of a wealthy property developer who is seeking government approval for a controversial hotel project. White House officials defended the President, saying his holiday plans were perfectly innocent and no conflict of interest was involved. Others disagreed.

Mr Clinton will arrive tomorrow with Hillary and Chelsea for a three-week stay, the longest holiday of his presidency, at the secluded 19th-century farmhouse owned by Richard Friedman on Martha's Vineyard. Local estate agents say the rental would be between $10,000 and $15,000 (£6,250 and £9,375).

Mr Friedman's company has been hired by a civic group to build a hotel on City Hall Plaza in Boston. The group has been negotiating with the General Services Administration (GSA), the Federal Government's landlord, over the shape and placing of the hotel. The GSA objects to the planned site because it would cast a shadow over the adjoining John F. Kennedy Federal Building and pose a security risk to law-enforcement agencies housed there.

The GSA administrator for Boston, Robert Dunfey, said Mr Friedman "told me in so many words there'd be certain political pressure coming down on me if the GSA doesn't change its position". He said Mr Friedman did not mention names but had told him before about his ties to Mr Clinton.

Mr Friedman has known the President since the 1980s and was one of the Democratic Party's big contributors invited to stay the night in the Lincoln Bedroom at the White House. He said it was an honour to have the First Family staying at his holiday home and the last thing he would ever think of doing would be to impose upon his friendship with Mr Clinton by discussing personal business affairs. Mike McCurry, White House spokesman, said just because someone has an issue pending with the Government does not exclude them from extending hospitality to the President. In Washington, the non-partisan Centre for Responsive Politics said there was a huge potential for a conflict of interest. A spokeswoman said the Clintons made a practice of spending holidays in the homes of wealthy individuals. "Their hosts are not disinterested parties," she said.

Meanwhile, Mr Clinton said that Mrs Clinton would take a "leading role" in overseeing a new millennium project launched yesterday.

"The White House millennium project will guide and direct America's celebration of the millennium by showcasing the achievements that define us as a nation — our culture, our scholarship, our scientific exploration," he said.

The Clintons launching the millennium project

DeLorean stripped of his luxury estate

From James Bone in New York

JOHN DeLOREAN, the sports car maker still wanted in Britain after the collapse of his factory in Belfast, is to be stripped of his luxury estate in America and his collection of art and antiques. The action is being taken under a court ruling obtained by Mayer Morganroth, his long-time attorney and friend.

Mr Morganroth turned on his client over $7.2 million (£4.5 million) in unpaid legal fees. The Michigan-based lawyer represented Mr DeLorean in some 40 cases, including the car company's bankruptcy, from 1982 to 1993. He was also involved in Mr DeLorean's acquittal on cocaine trafficking charges and his acrimonious divorce from the model Cristine Ferrare.

Mr DeLorean, now 72, insisted that Mr Morganroth had overcharged him, and said the $800,000 he had already paid in legal fees was sufficient.

But Judge Gilbert Merritt of the US district court in Cincinnati ruled on appeal on Thursday that Mr DeLorean must sell his personal assets to pay his legal bill.

The former high-flying executive, who made his name as the youngest chief of Chevrolet, lives on a sprawling farm in the horse country around Bedminster, New Jersey. His neighbours include Nicholas Brady, the former US Treasury Secretary, and Steven Forbes, the publisher and presidential hopeful.

Mr DeLorean, who told the court he had sold a $50,000 Mercedes to pay his $30,000 monthly mortgage, recently relinquished most of the 434-acre estate to Merrill Lynch Credit Corporation because of his unpaid debts.

Under that agreement, the remaining 45 acres and the Georgian mansion were to go to his son, Zachary, and his daughter, Kathryn.

هكذا من الاصل

صورة من الأصل

3

Green 'minority' sees red over plans to reconstruct city for Millennium and Games

Olympic test for mayor

ROME FILE

by RICHARD OWEN

AS THE fight between Athens and Rome for the 2004 Olympic Games enters the final straight, Francesco Rutelli, the elegant and photogenic Mayor of Rome, robustly dismisses those within his own Green Party who think a win for Rome would be a disaster. "I am not neurotic about criticism. But these people are in a *minority*. The Greens as a party have voted in favour of our plan for the Olympics — unanimously at the Rome level, and by a big majority at the national level."

Signor Rutelli's visionary plans for reconstructing Rome involve not only the Olympic Games but also — and more immediately — the Millennium, when Rome and St Peter's will be a natural world focus. But an alliance of environmentalists has mounted a "no" campaign, arguing that an ancient city like Rome cannot cope with the expected influx and that "white elephant" projects have been created to line the pockets of Italian construction bosses.

Signor Rutelli strongly denies he has been seduced away from his Green principles by power. Still only 41, he was elected in 1993, when Italy's mayors were directly elected for the first time. He faces re-election in November. He appears confident, perhaps not only because of his record but also because his film star looks guarantee him a loyal following, especially among women. The location of his office also inspires a sense of destiny: it overlooks Michelangelo's Campidoglio square on one side and the Roman Forum on the other.

"My critics are right when they say I opposed bringing the Games to Italy in 1992," he says. "But that was during the 'Clean Hands' anti-corruption drive in Milan, when officials and businessmen were being jailed every day. It is very different now. If you are investing large amounts of public money, you have to be sure everything is above board."

Signor Rutelli maintains that only 15 per cent of the $10 billion (£6.3 billion) Rome Olympic budget is going into new construction. "We already have most of the sports facilities. The money is being invested in transport, parks, infrastructure, renovation. It is not all concrete and cement. Big business will benefit in only a minimal way." Some works are inevitably disruptive. Rome's cobbled streets are being ripped up for the installation of 1,800 miles of fibre optic cable, and a new underground line is being built to link the Colosseum and the Vatican.

Signor Rutelli, whose modern vision for the historic capital has come under fire from environmentalists

The Olympic Village at Tor Vergata, campus of one of Rome's three universities, will benefit students, he says. "We have about 230,000 students, of whom 60,000 are from out of town, and we don't have places for them to sleep." Sensitive to the charge that he had neglected Rome's drabber suburbs, he has staged a high-tech exhibition showing that almost 100 new parks have been carved out of derelict land, with disused factories turned into award-winning arts and community centres. "Modernisation is not automatically a bad thing."

But what about the charge that a planned traffic underpass beneath the Tiber embankment at the historic Castel Sant'Angelo is doomed because the diggers keep finding archaeological treasures? Signor Rutelli drew me an instant sketch map. "They have found parts of the old bastions in a perfect state of conservation. But it's not a tragedy, we have the tunnelling technology to go deeper, beneath the river level. You see, very Green."

Lure of holiday homes

THIS weekend is Ferragosto, the traditional mid-August holiday when most of Italy simply shuts down. But as the heatwave takes hold, many Italians who would normally head for the beaches or the hills are staying at home. Although foreign tourists continue to pour into Tuscany and "art cities" such as Florence, hoteliers elsewhere rely on home-grown custom. Bookings at the seaside and in the mountain resorts are said to be down by 10 to 20 per cent, as Italians feel the pinch of the centre-left Government's austerity drive, designed to help Italy to meet the Maastricht criteria for the single currency. Families may also be being put off by the lack of space on the beaches: according to La Stampa, *Alassio on the Mediterranean Riviera offers 28cm per sunbather and San Remo 272cm. But for a roomy 600cm you have to go down the rugged coastline of the South, to Otranto.*

Exiled Prince's fate lies with MPs

IF ALL goes well, the exiled heir to the throne of Italy, Prince Victor Emmanuel, will be able to return to his homeland with his family next year. The Cabinet has approved a Bill allowing the House of Savoy to return for the first time since the 1946 referendum which ended the monarchy, provided the former Royal Family does not engage in politics.

The Bill still has to be passed by parliament, however, and Victor Emmanuel cannot seem to stop himself making remarks which inflame anti-monarchist feeling and endanger his chances of repatriation (he left as a child with his father, King Umberto II). Earlier this year the Prince observed that Mussolini's race laws had been "not so terrible". This week he angered Rome by publicly boasting that he had "entered Italian waters by 657 yards" when he made the short journey by yacht from his holiday villa in Corsica (which is French) to a point near the neighbouring island of Sardinia (which is Italian) to meet the mayor of the little Sardinian port of Santa Teresa di Gallura.

"What kind of King would Victor Emmanuel make?" asked *La Repubblica* in mock despair. *Corriere della Sera* pointed out that the exiled Prince had chosen the wrong place to gloat, since in the 1946 referendum 70 per cent of the citizens of Santa Teresa voted for the republic, even though most of Sardinia was royalist.

German in BSE food plot jailed

Konstanz: A German who tried to extort millions of marks from the Swiss Nestlé Maggi company by threatening to inject its food products with "mad cow" disease — Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy — was jailed for three years and two months yesterday.

Identified only as Rainer M, he said debts led him to crime this year. A court in this southern town gave his wife, Gabriele M, a one-year suspended sentence for her part in the plot.

German police are also investigating an extortion attempt on Thomy, another Nestlé company. It got a letter saying its products had been contaminated. *(Reuter)*

Italians queue up for politician's cash gift

Rome: Thousands of Italians queued for hours yesterday to receive free handouts of 50,000 lire (£17) from a maverick politician who is protesting at the use of taxpayers' money to finance political parties.

About 3,000 people waited all morning in sweltering heat in front of Rome's Campidoglio, or city hall, to receive a wad of cash from Marco Pannella's Radical Party, which handed out an estimated 150 million lire.

The cash was distributed in 10,000 lire notes stamped with the words: "This is part of the loot stolen from each citizen. The Radical Party has decided not to use this stolen money and to give it back. Put it to good use."

Under a law reintroduced this year after a two-year hiatus, the Government has given 160 billion lire of tax revenues to political parties, distributed according to their size. Signor Pannella's party received 2.7 billion lire.

The law had been repealed by a referendum in 1993, largely because of public outrage over the Tangentopoli "Bribesville" scandals that exposed hundreds of politicians and businessmen involved in illegal party financing.

The Radical Party, which supports the independent financing of parties, wants to scrap the law again. "This is a day to remember, with Italians celebrating honest people and not those who steal," Signor Pannella said.

Last month he gave away £70,000 in northern Italy. *(Reuter)*

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COMEDY

Ben Moor's *A Supercolider For The Family* (Pleasance) is the world's best "feel-good" movie that never got made. It is a brave man who can speak well of love through such cynical times; Moor's sweetly melancholy tale of a physicist's devotion to his tightrope walking wife is enchanting.

Supercolider is set in the near future, where the hot new drink is "a Dutch cappuccino — one of the new contraceptive coffees" and the supermarkets have gone to war. The narrator has been asked to launch "an atom smasher for home use" and sets out with his guardian angel to untangle the problems involved in shrinking a 87-kilometre long mechanism to the size of a bicycle wheel.

The jokes are so fast and so beautifully constructed that the audience is unable to laugh for fear they may not hear the next one. Moor is a surprisingly graceful performer, and his long body and elegant hands bring to life the bizarre world of his imagination. *Supercolider* is the beautiful, funny child of Wim Wenders and Thomas Pynchon; sometimes even comedy should make you cry. The show ends on Monday.

Boothby Graffoe's show (Pleasance) somehow manages to be at once political, cutesy and grotesque. The one-liners are brilliantly silly: "I'm under quite a lot of pressure at the moment because originally I'm from the Moon"; and his stories veer from the childlike — building a miniature supermarket for the ants in his kitchen — to the *Carry On* — "she had a pornographic wedding: all the bridesmaids were naked and all the pages were stuck together".

Boothby Graffoe: both cutesy and grotesque

The audience were virtually evaporating with humidity the evening I went, rendering them extremely unresponsive, which could explain the show's apparent lack of structure. Nevertheless, Graffoe is one of the few comedians around who seem to notice current affairs, or indeed any form of life higher than a bus ticket, and is worth watching if only for his re-enactment of exactly why Cherie Blair ended up on the doorstep in her nightie.

Yet more cuteness from the hyperactive **Adam Bloom** (Pleasance): walking proof that men go into comedy so that they can behave like six-year-olds in public. "I am exceptionally charming and almost fanciable," he announces to the audience; probably true if you go for schoolboys high on orange squash. Bloom's brain never stops ticking, hence his humour is largely constructed from clever on-the-spot irrelevancies. Hearing the birds sing outside his window he asks: "Do you think the older ones have trouble appreciating the younger ones' music?" He looks up at the Moon and wonders whether Neil Armstrong was tempted to join the quarter-of-a-million-mile-high club. Bloom is very comfortable with his audience; much of the show is improvised, and it is in these sections that he really displays his comic talent. It is all very funny, but Bloom does have the potential to grate.

Those who last year deposited their comic hearts with **Dylan Moran** (Pleasance) have a good return on their investment. Moran is on excellent form: in his case this means bumbling petulantly round a stage, fag in one hand, pint of Guinness in the other, in a state of extreme paranoia. Although he addresses a standard observational casserole of relationships, estate agents and reviewers, his precise language renders it new and extraordinary.

"What have rich people ever given us? Gout, inbreeding and lisps," he mutters. Or: "You walk into an estate agent's office and all the roulette tables become desks." And my personal favourite: "Critic: the very word suggests an insect." Thank you Mr Moran, I must go and groom my other four legs.

HETTIE JUDAH

Blackboard jungles

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Since I have lived for a fair number of years without having once seen the male member scrawled on a blackboard, either in life or on the stage, I was surprised to spot that very organ twice at the same theatre within as many days. There it was in Jonathan Harvey's *Swan Song*, which is set in and around an Essex comprehensive. And there it was again in Stephen Fry's *Latin*, which occurs in a posh prep school. At the Pleasance, chalk penises certainly cross the class barriers.

Harvey is the author of *Beautiful Thing* and other pieces that draw indirectly on his experiences as a teacher in grotty Thamesmead. But in *Swan Song* he takes us actually into a school whose most famous alumni are "three murderers, two rapists and a Spice Girl". So what's wrong with the place? Part of the answer is implicit in his deft, incisive portrait of a teacher who thinks she is loved by everybody and should probably be headmistress, but is variously regarded by her colleagues as an eccentric, a fourth-rater, a sexually repressed mess, and a danger.

Or so one surmises from Di Titswell's own description of the events before, during and after a school trip to Swanage. There she catches the young star of the staffroom in flagrante with a woman teacher, a former drug addict she regards as "a skinny tramp". So she takes pretty vicious revenge, but in the slyest way, for Di's myth about herself is that she is a warm, caring if severe person, who likes nothing better than (as she keeps putting it) to "empathise" with children or adults in trouble.

The piece has similarities to some of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*, but is sufficiently well observed for Rebecca Front to bring it to first-hand life. She has a smirk and an up-to-date cliché for every occasion, whether she is jokily dressed as a sheep for a school fun-run or earnestly insisting that she is "very pro-non-aggressive" and "not at all lesbophobic". But Front also manages to suggest anger and envy behind the socialist pretension, and behind them a quietly gnawing loneliness. This teacher will go on petting Anneka Jane, as her cat is called, and yelling at her pupils until the school runs out of classrooms poky and remote enough to which to demote her.

Fry wrote *Latin* when he was still at that satire-factory, Cambridge, and it is more stylised than *Swan Song*. But it undeniably shows a hilarious talent in the making. There is a lot of fun at the expense of the lunacies of a school whose headmaster enjoins his sixth form to think "God your social equal and the Devil your inferior". This is an arcane world in which houses called Otters and Eelcatchers vie to gain "stars" and avoid "black holes".

It is also a world in which pederasty and sadomasochism are considered perfectly normal pursuits for sound, solid teachers. When David Mitchell's serenely smug Brookshaw discovers that his rival for the headmastership, Robert Webb's Clarke, is having a lurid affair with a pupil, does he publicly expose him as a monster? No, he blackmails him into jumping on his, Brookshaw's, buttocks in cricket-boots. If I were 11, I think I'd take my chances with Di and her comprehensive.

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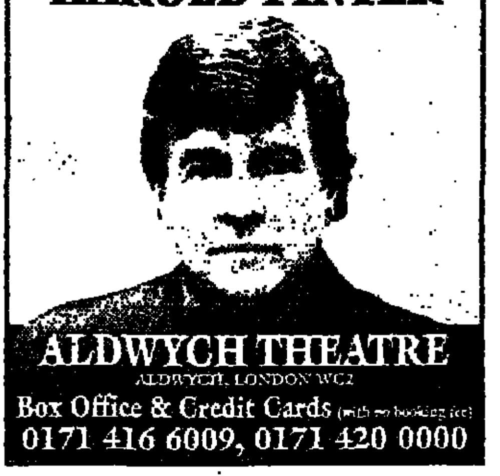

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A big hand for Mr Svengali, please

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Marketing is the new rock'n'roll. Is that an original thought? If so, I have had two this year, and it's only August. But I digress. Marketing is the new rock'n'roll. It used to be comedy, but trendy comic folk are apparently so dumbstruck by the metaphysical infallibility of new Labour policy that they have renounced satire, at least for the duration of St Tony's Government.

Then poetry — *poetry!* — was hilariously acclaimed as the new rock'n'roll. After that it was food. I daresay that fortune-telling will now get the accolade, following Diana's impulsive dash to Mystic Meg of Derbyshire. And I am fairly sure that avant-garde sculpture, the sort involving pickled sheep or bodily functions (or preferably both at the same time), has also been hailed in recent months as the new rock'n'roll, if only by the dealers of the artists concerned. But that only proves what I said to begin with: Marketing is the new rock'n'roll.

Precisely *what* is being marketed has ceased to matter. What fascinates people, what gives them a buzz and sends them home happy, is the knowledge that they have been hoodwinked by a really classy marketing trick. Marketing is now the preferred field of operation for the Napoleons of our era. So it isn't surprising that the brilliance of the marketing nearly always outshines the brilliance of the product being marketed.

These thoughts first struck me (for some inexplicable reason) during the general election campaign. They struck me again this week as I contemplated the faintly alarming spectacle of whole teams of reporters on excellent newspapers chasing the latest sighting of a new record by the pop group Oasis. "Good heavens," exclaimed a friend who is even less attuned to the *Zeitgeist* of 1997 Britain than I am, if that is possible. "You've all fallen for a marketing stunt. You don't even know if the album is any good. Aren't you ashamed?"

Silly boy! The story *is* the marketing. Whether the album is any good is beside the point. We are acclaiming genius here, but the genius has nothing to do with music. It's the kind of genius that can tease hundreds of newspapers, radio stations and TV companies with a dripfeed of tantalising snippets, until the (still unheard) album has acquired the sort of legendary aura usually reserved for weeping madonnas.

Some people worry that teenagers are being manipulated by such marketing sophistries. They shouldn't. Teenagers are quite capable of recognising hype for what it is — but they also relish it, when it is done well, just as everyone relishes a brilliant TV commercial. The problem is not that teenagers don't realise that they are being manipulated. On the contrary, the real danger is that they suspect that they are being manipulated *all the time*. These days, youthful naivety disappears well before puberty.

That is surely why there has been such an increase in the number of youngsters doing "media studies". Most students are not naive. They know that a qualification in "media" isn't the first rung on a ladder leading inexorably to Paxman's chair on *Newsnight*. No, they choose to study "media" because they genuinely believe that if you grasp the workings of the press, radio and television — and the wily crafts of manipulation and marketing exercised through these channels — you hold the key to modern life. Marketing, you see, is the new rock'n'roll. It is the petrol in the engine of contemporary culture.

Well, nobody doubts that the arts need good marketing. But these days the tail too often wags the dog. Marketing departments literally call the tune. We all know about Hollywood movies having their denouements altered (long after they are ostensibly "in the can") at the dictate of the studio's marketing department and the all-powerful "focus groups". But now books, musicals, TV series, sporting events, pop groups and even some newspapers are increasingly fashioned according to commands from omnipotent marketing gurus. We live in a Svengali heaven.

Inevitably, the dangerous edge is rubbed off art created under such conditions. Worse, there is an impatience about art that doesn't easily fit into the soundbite culture preferred by the marketeers: serious plays or symphonies, for example. But as we savour the insouciant sweep of a great marketing campaign, a little thing like the actual quality of the item being hyped is the last thing on our minds. We buy the album as an endorsement of the brilliant marketing, not the product.

And by the time the critics get their say (those who haven't already been wined and dined into euphoria) their reviews are irrelevant. "Sentence first — verdict afterwards!" cried Lewis Carroll's Queen, and in our own topsy-turvy wonderland the dispassionate critical verdict is also the last thing anybody wants to hear.

One day, no doubt, the historians will survey our Faddish Nineties and say: "Great marketing, shame about the art." But I can't get too annoyed about the current spate of Oasis fever engineered by Alan McGee's Creation Records. I know that I am witnessing a master at work, and I don't mean Noel Gallagher. Incidentally, I see that new Labour has now recruited McGee to serve on the new "task force" set up to revolutionise our cultural life. Clearly, running the country is going to be the new rock'n'roll.

Pure Russian magic

BBC PROMS

Kirov Orchestra/ Gergiev

Albert Hall/Radio 3

THURSDAY'S visit by Valery Gergiev and his Kirov Orchestra was one of the Prom season's hottest tickets, and still it surpassed expectations. London is lucky to have the conductor as a regular visitor, but hearing him with the musicians he has honed over the years is a special experience rare in a world of itinerant maestros and interchangeable orchestras.

Gergiev also brought three remarkable singers with him from the Kirov Opera, to give a thoroughly Russian performance of Shostakovich's orchestral song-cycle *From Jewish Folk Poetry*. Incredibly, this important score had not been heard at the Proms before, but then it is something of a rarity everywhere. It was conceived as a protest against Stalin's treatment of the Jews, but could not be premiered until after the dictator's death.

The outward simplicity of the cycle hides a bundle of enigmatic contradictions: after the bleakness of the opening song, no listener could take the Soviet-style optimism of the final numbers seriously. Gergiev caught the essence of the work in a very slow account of the utterly hopeless *Lullaby*, with the gently rocking lines given full meaning by Larissa Diadkova. Her coppery contralto was matched by Marina Shaguch's perfectly-centred soprano, and Evgeny Akimov was the plaintive tenor soloist.

The rest of the programme displayed the orchestra's tonal colours. It opened with Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* fantasy overture, and as the instrumental layers built up, one marvelled at the individuality of the woodwinds, the fully rounded sound of the trombones, the unique "buzz" of the cellos, but most of all the discipline and precision of the soft playing: these players are the current keepers of St Petersburg's patrician musical tradition. Hunched and writhing almost demonically, Gergiev shaped a spacious but passionate performance full of tension.

Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* is much more than a showpiece, and Gergiev conducted it with thrilling sweep. But its stories were evoked in bright colours, and the quality of the orchestra's soloists, not only the flexible first violin but also the distinctive oboe and bassoon, shone through.

JOHN ALLISON

MARILYN KINGWILL

Cheryl Campbell as Arkadina and Duncan Bell as Trigorin in Stephen Unwin's overblown production of Chekhov

Assaulted by birdsong

THEATRE

The Seagull

Donmar

Chekhov's first attempt to find a new form for the theatre was famously misunderstood at its first production, by actors and audience alike, and only when Stanislavsky directed it two years later did it become a success. But a programme note by Stephen Mulrine, translator of the version being used here by English Touring Theatre, reveals an astonishing detail about the play's early history.

It seems that Stanislavsky, who also played Trigorin, was never entirely at ease with the play, and after Chekhov's death in 1904 *The Seagull* was dropped from the repertoire of the Moscow Art Theatre until 1960. This means that for more than half a century, and continuing long after Stanislavsky's death, this crucial play was ignored by the company which nonetheless used a flying seagull as its image. A daunting example of inertia and schizophrenia staggering down the decades hand in hand.

Stephen Unwin's production, though attractive in several details, nonetheless hits us in the eyeball and the eardrum in a manner that Stanislavsky's first actors, always prone to overemphasis, might have relished. Cheryl Campbell's Arkadina almost chokes herself into a coma when her brother suggests she provide a little money for her son. Though her family background is modestly grand — Sorin, her brother, is a retired judge — she could give lessons in vulgarity to any fish-wives scattered around the lake, screeching "Kostya, darling!!" to her son in a voice that curdles the blood.

The intention must be to present Arkadina as a flamboyant thespian of the old school, prone to giving just the sort of unsubtle performances on the Kharkov stage that Kostya (and Chekhov) detested. But the production as a whole picks up this coarseness, and the outbursts of savage rage that Campbell gives us work against other elements of the play.

Likewise, Christopher Good's Dorn hurls his lines at people as vigorously as he propels Masha's snuff-box into the shrubbery. There is no need to force the words across in this way. Less is not just more but, truly, the only good way.

Nina has to be callow and calf-eyed until the last act, but Joanna Roth surprisingly brings aggression to her early scene with Kostya. At the same time, and not simply because of the style of dress, her otherwise rapt ingenuousness turns her into Dorothy on the road to Oz.

Mark Bazeley (Kostya), eyes flashing from his pale and haunted face, valiantly coped with a knee injury that has obliged him to walk with a crutch, but Unwin could have ignored the stage direction that requires Arthur Cox's Sorin to lean on a walking-stick. Their first entry together became distractingly comic. Most in keeping with Chekhov's declared wishes is Duncan Bell's Trigorin, quiet, even withdrawn in manner, but whose faint Scottish burr poignantly conveys the beauty of the lake he is obliged to leave. Otherwise, this is not a production to allow the play's power to steal fastidiously into the heart.

JEREMY KINGSTON

The ostrich and Co second that emotion

POP

The Verve

Wolverhampton

WHEN the Verve disbanded acrimoniously in late 1995, they had never touched the celestial heights they had always talked of reaching. But early this year, after repairing the rift between singer Richard Ashcroft and guitarist Nick McCabe, this Wigan-born quintet re-formed and rediscovered their hunger to be the best band in Britain. Encouraged by the friendship and patronage of Oasis, these northern souls resolved once again to try to make rock shows not just transcendent but almost religious experiences.

To judge by advance word of this tour, which sold out instantly, the band are already in godlike form. At Wolverhampton's Civic Hall, they certainly proved themselves ready to reach for the stars once more. Ashcroft, an emaciated human scarecrow with a serial killer stare, danced barefoot on an oriental rug placed centre stage. Gyrating his wiry limbs while bent double like a constipated ostrich, he made an unlikely rock icon. But as soon as his colleagues got into their roaring, anthemic flow, the singer's eccentric and edgy presence made perfect sense.

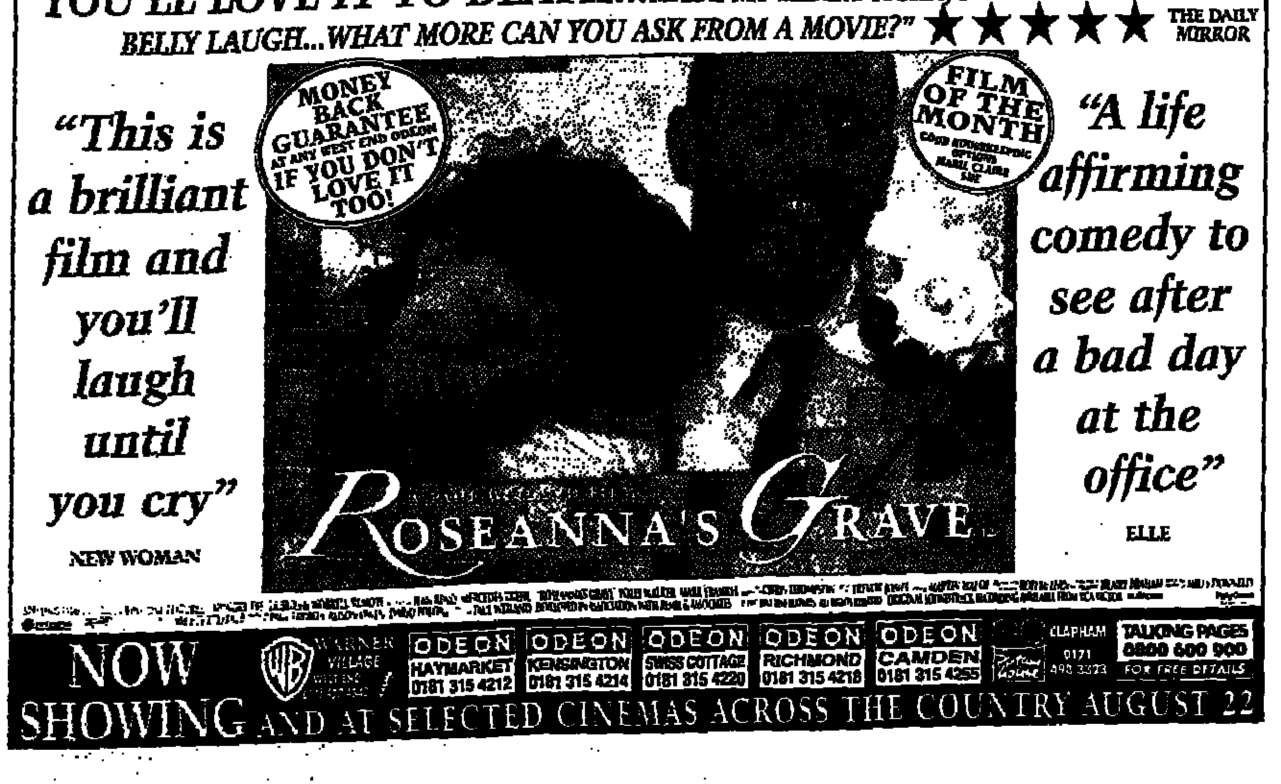
The set was heavily weighted with new songs from the band's forthcoming third album, *Urban Hymns*, and all the better for being so. Old tunes such as *This Is Music* still retained an undeniable grandeur, but several others simply underlined just how shapeless and self-indulgent much of the band's early output was, especially Ashcroft's blankly declamatory lyrics.

The newer material proved not only more tightly structured but far more engagingly emotive. For the love-lorn lament *On Your Own*, Ashcroft strapped on an acoustic guitar and swapped his pugilistic swagger for something approaching vulnerability. He then crooned the band's new single *Drugs Don't Work*, like a man humbled into submission by his broken heart. Although the performance was slightly clumsy, this stirring ballad already sounds like one of the year's best singles.

This shift towards more focused tunes with stronger emotional hooks has undoubtedly been the key to transforming the band from cult heroes to mainstream contenders. Even so, the Verve are still probably not quite the electrifying spectacle that they think they are, and there were a few flat moments during their Wolverhampton show which no amount of messianic posturing could salvage. Still, a little overblown self-importance has always been crucial to bands as single-minded and individual as this.

And when they rounded off the night with the sampled orchestral flourishes of their magnificent, grandly operatic comeback single, *Bitter Sweet Symphony*, it was hard not to be swept along by the crashing melodrama of it all. Constipated ostriches or not, the Verve are heading for greatness.

STEPHEN DALTON



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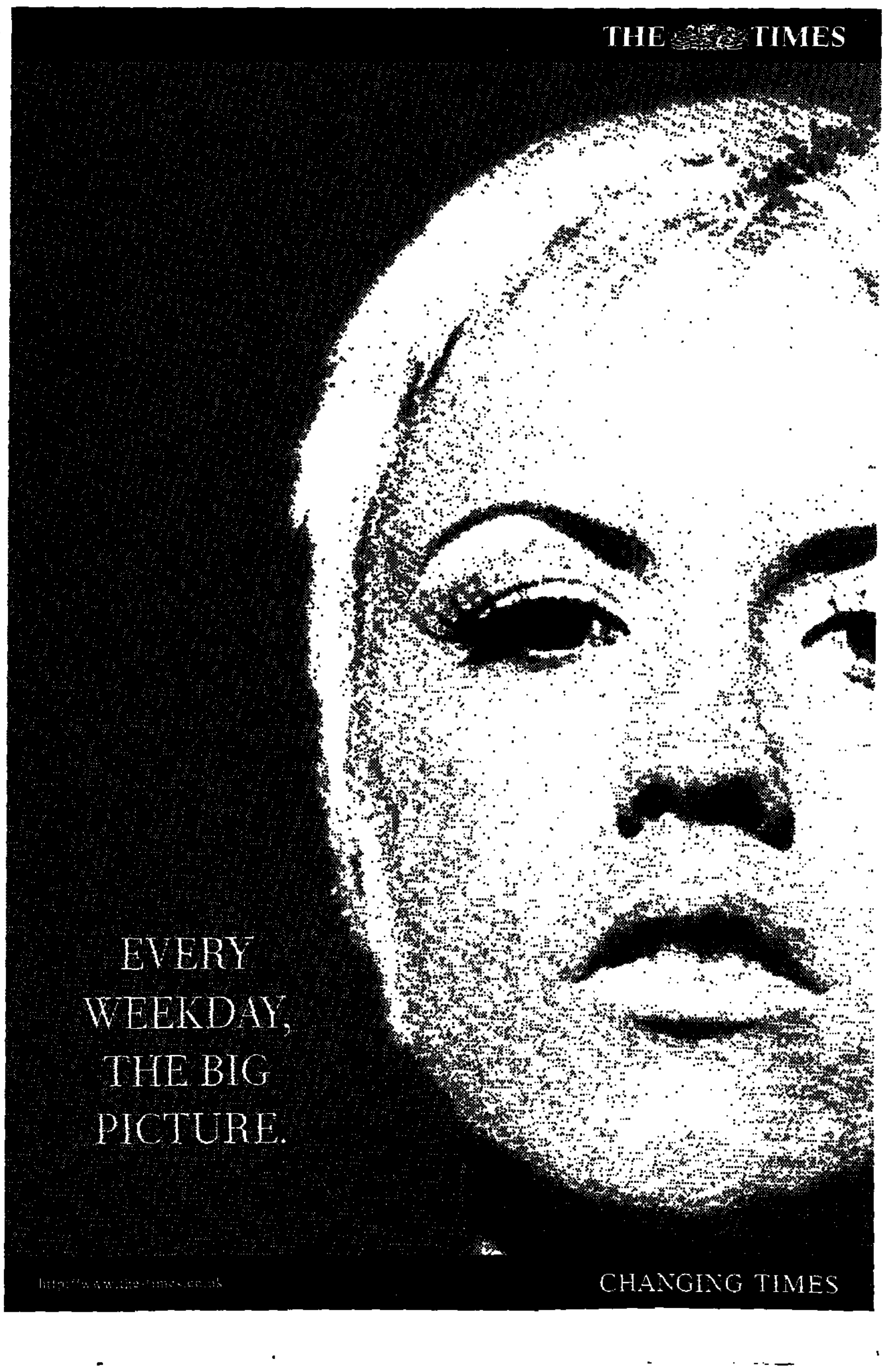


THE TIMES

EVERY WEEKDAY, THE BIG PICTURE.

CHANGING TIMES

Must the poor pay the price of victory?

Roy Hattersley finds Mandelson a dubious salesman for Labour

These days the most important Labour speeches are always preceded by a judicious leak which whets the appetite of the waiting world. So news that the Prime Minister is to lead a task force which will examine the causes of and cures for "social exclusion" was broadcast long before Peter Mandelson made the speech which described the initiative.

Hoping that social exclusion was a way of describing poverty without antagonising the middle classes, I rejoiced to hear the preview of what the Minister without Portfolio was going to say. How, and by whom, the announcement was made seemed far less important than the announcement itself. Then I read the full text of the Fabian Summer Lecture. Sometimes the medium really is the message.

Working parties are created either to bide time or to make progress. For the next month or two, all questions and complaints about the Government's poverty programme will be met by the assurance that the problems of the poor are being investigated. Nobody can complain about that — even though every moderately competent social worker could produce a list of urgent needs that a compassionate government would meet without delay. The real question — which must be asked about every working party, task force and departmental inquiry — is whether or not it is more than a protection against the accusation of inactivity. In both language and content, Mr Mandelson's lecture was depressingly superficial. Until the new unit promises specific action, there will be fears that the assault on exclusion will be similarly facile.

Mr Mandelson attacks as inadequate the demand for "the redistribution of cash from rich to poor, which others artificially choose as their own limited vision of egalitarianism". No one who has criticised the Government's poverty programme has ever suggested that income redistribution is in itself enough. Of course the causes of poverty have to be addressed. But while the long-term remedies are working through, thousands of families — some of whom can never benefit from the Welfare to Work programme — are living below the poverty line. No minister has provided a convincing explanation of why they are not offered immediate help. Mr Mandelson deals with the question like a door-to-door salesman whose merchandise is obviously second-rate. He talks quickly about something else and attacks his competitors for deficiencies which he has invented.

Naturally enough, the Minister without Portfolio spent Thursday trumpeting his public relations triumph. His response to cross-examination undermined confidence in the initiative even more. Asked about the Government's policy on retirement pensions, he insisted that the Government would "stand by" the elderly.

Mr Mandelson — who, on the *World at One*, had announced his enthusiasm for philosophy — may care to ask himself what used to be called "the philosopher's question". How does standing by the pensioners differ from not standing by them? The best answer he could give yesterday was the assertion that the basic pension had been increased in line with inflation.

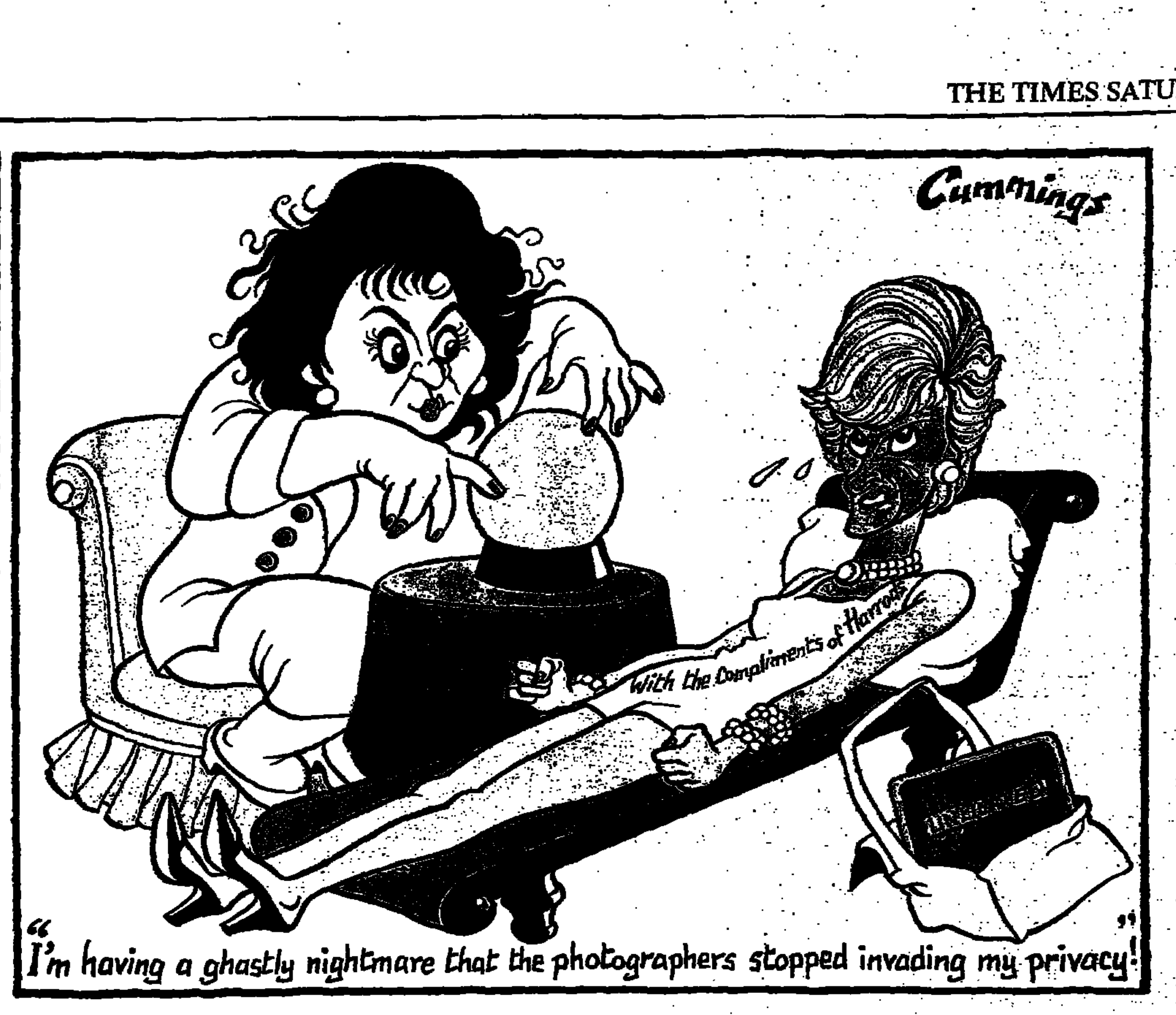
A second "philosopher's question" immediately arises. How does Labour's policy on the basic pension differ from the Tory alternative that was so bitterly criticised before the election? Once upon a time, the answer was obvious. Pensions, Labour promised, would be increased in line with improvements in average earnings. But new Labour regards that as too generous.

The Minister without Portfolio was asked outright if there was any prospect of improving benefit levels for the disabled, the chronically sick and the growing number of pensioners to whom the assault on the root causes of poverty would offer nothing. Perhaps, he answered, when the economic conditions allowed. It is hard to imagine a more propitious moment to increase taxes by (say) two per cent, use half of the income to improve living standards below the poverty line and — by taking the rest out of commercial circulation — dampen down the overheated economy without industrially damaging increases in interest rates. To talk as if there were an economic case against increasing benefits is so patently absurd that it adds to the belief that poverty is only an item on the public relations agenda.

That fear is certainly deepened by the constant emphasis on "exclusion" — a weak concept which can be defined in any way which is convenient — rather than "poverty", which can be described, measured and identified. Exclusion, Mr Mandelson told us, is "about being cut off from what the rest of us call normal life". Nothing is more likely to create that unhappy condition than continual poverty.

Single parents — whose benefit supplement is to be abolished by the Labour Government — will not feel more included in society at large when their purchasing power is dragged further below the national average. They need real money in their hands and they need it now. That can only be achieved by a conscious policy of income redistribution. The first step towards doing what is right by the underprivileged is an honest description of their problem. They are poor. Fancy explanations will not help them. A moderate redistribution of income certainly would.

Tessa Jowell, the Minister of Public Health, recently gave an admirably honest explanation of why the poor must remain in poverty. Labour's promise not to increase income tax had been necessary to win the election and could not be broken now. The paradox is breathtaking. The disadvantaged and the dispossessed voted Labour because they believed the party would lift them out of poverty. Now, they have to pay the price of victory. Please God, when the Prime Minister gets back from his holidays, he will say something sensible about poverty and his exclusion task force. Then I can rejoice again at its creation.


Cummings
With the Compliments of Harrods

"I'm having a ghastly nightmare that the photographers stopped invading my privacy!"

Power to the pupils

A-level students rightly prefer 'soft' subjects to dry and useless sciences

Simon Jenkins

Excellent news from the scholastic front. The reactionary armies are in retreat. The youthful forces of choice and common sense are advancing. Pupils across the land are defying the political correctness of their elders and opting for liberty.

August is the month when the British nation goes innumerate — not its schoolchildren but its teachers, commentators and politicians. Thursday saw the John Patten memorial contest for state schools in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. (Scottish competition is considered too tough to risk.) The result is the usual nonsense. "Best" schools are like heavyweight boxers. The best depends on which system you follow. In *The Times*, the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe won. In *The Daily Telegraph*, Chelmsford County High came top. *The Independent* gave its palm to Malvern's Chase High. Each used different criteria and the tables bore little relation to each other. So much for objective quantification.

More inane is the response to the results themselves. These days nobody over 40 can bring himself to admit that young people might be getting cleverer. Having made A levels the rock on which British education would be rebuilt, conservatives now deplore "A-level inflation", with A and B passes rising some 30 per cent in ten years. They assert, on no evidence but hearsay, that this cannot be right. When a statistic gives good news about the young it must be faulty.

This year grades rose overall by another 1.3 per cent. The best reason is the obvious one. Lazy universities are now selecting students almost entirely on A-level grades. Lazy inspectors are measuring schools on the same basis. The result is that both pupils and teachers are devoting more effort to improving grades. Education for 15 to 18-year-olds in most schools now concentrates on league table rankings. All this tells us is that if higher grades are what you want, higher grades you will get. It is the policy equivalent of packing an athlete full of steroids. Performance will rise, if you do not care about the side-effects. We still have no idea which schools are really better, which pupils are brighter or whether the economy is fitter as a result.

Yet we do know something more encouraging. Despite the dictatorship of the league table, pupils enjoy choice of A-level subject. For most of them, this is the first big decision of their career. Up to 16 there is virtually no curriculum option, given the highly centralised GCSE syllabus. After 16 the reverse applies. The university admissions cartel has all but collapsed, and with it the demand for a homogeneous portfolio of A-level subjects. Sixth-formers have reacted by spreading their wings. They have turned their backs on dull subjects pressed on them by parents and teachers, and opted for ones they see as useful in their careers.

The chief casualties have been maths and science A levels, which have seen ten years of relative decline. This week's report in *The Times* was bald: "Pupils desert traditional subjects." Art and design has now overtaken physics in A-level popularity. Business studies and sociology are now attracting as much interest as chemistry. Although maths and physics picked up marginally last year, they still appeal to a falling percentage of pupils. More are taking computing, media studies, psychology and physical education. Science occupies just 17 per cent of the total of papers sat.

This indicates that one of the biggest ever exercises in educational engineering, the "science first" policy of the 1980s, has failed. The Thatcher and Major Governments tried to force ever more pupils into science up to the age of 16. There were science weeks, science prizes, science salary increments.

I hope someone audits this fiasco. The Tory Government could never bring itself to abandon socialist planning. Ministers incanted, year after year, that Britain "needed" more scientists. There was no evidence for this statement. If pay is the measure of professional demand, scientists other than doctors are now in severe over-supply compared to almost all other professions. Yet such is the political correctness in education that, if I wrote that schools would best serve their pupils by turning out more lawyers, accountants, marketing executives and cooks, I would be excoriated. (I write it nonetheless.) To compound the error, this Government now intends to charge the same fee for a science course as for an arts one, expecting popular arts degrees to cross-subsidise unpopular science ones. This is the manpower planning of the madhouse.

At least the pupils are staying sane. They know what stimulates and motivates them to learn, and what will help them to find a job. I wonder how many readers of this article could name a young person now entering a career in which a maths or science degree is prerequisite. The answer is very few. Pupils know this. They are preferring A-level courses that are likely to help them get a job, while still stimulating their interest in the world about them and challenging their imagination. Within the sciences, biology is understandably most popular. Nor are the favoured courses necessarily utilitarian. Art, design and English are booming.

At this point in the argument, the reactionaries wheel out their two favourite hobbyhorses. First, they protest that irrelevant subjects are important since they "train the mind". This hokum reminds me of Arnold of Rugby's stipulation that French should never be spoken by his pupils. It could be taught only "grammatically as a dead language". His job was to impart "not knowledge but the means of gaining knowledge". Lytton Strachey wrote that Arnold could not face the possibility that he had wasted his career on Latin and Greek. Yet his sophistry condemned a century of pupils to years wasted acquiring mountains of soon forgotten knowledge. There is no reason why a mind cannot be trained usefully.

The second hobbyhorse holds that so-called relevant subjects, whether at sixth form or university, are a "soft option". In other words, today's young are skiving. Yet law, economics and politics are hard subjects. So too are business, sociology and design. They are only soft if taught soft, which is the fault not of the content but of its education. English is not generally regarded as soft, yet it is the most popular A-level of all. I detect here another of Arnold's precepts, that the academic version of a good whipping is the only way of ensuring "simplicity, sobriety and humbleness of mind".

Common sense about the curriculum is largely confined to pupils. The fanaticism of the maths and science lobby is similar to that of Arnold's classicists. Parents and teachers, many of them liberal in other respects, hold that "what was good enough for me is good enough for him". Most hypocritical is the educational Right. It believes in choice of schools, yet not of curriculums. It preaches personal choice, yet cries with the pack that "Britain needs more scientists". For a decade under the Tories, the Education Department poured out tens of thousands of unemployable scientists. The only reason appears to be atavistic: science was somehow seen as clean, objective, unfuzzy, conservative — though at its most exciting it is anything but.

By now the reader is screaming that I cannot treat science this way. Science has become like ethnic minorities and the disabled, in need of positive discrimination. It has had that discrimination for at least a decade. Students are deserting science courses. They see which employers queue up for the brightest graduates at careers fairs. The overselling of science has spread teaching too thin, demotivated teachers and deterred pupils. Anyone can look at this week's Ucas listings and see science and engineering places going begging at all but the most exclusive universities. You need only C grades to do engineering at Edinburgh, and E grades will do at Exeter or Salford.

If I was a scientist I would plead with the Government to reverse its policy and cut science numbers drastically. I would not want to be the lame duck of education, my spokesmen special-pleading at every turn. I would want to be holding my own in the market. British education post-16 has come of age. It is starting to know what the world wants of it. Next time the Government ponders a reform, it should listen to the customers. Those customers are not parents. They are pupils. Each August they show us their wisdom.

Philip Howard

Grammar can be glamorous, but writing by rote is rotten

Grammar is too modest a subject for politicians. Compulsory tests of sloppy English for teenagers have been halted, while curriculum advisers carry out a fundamental review of English testing. So here is an exam to help them. For Neanderthal crusties, grammar is simple rules to be beaten in by rote and rod: the Gods of the Copybook Headings.

1. "Grammar" is derived (irregularly and semi-learnedly) from the Greek words for "the art of alphabetical characters". So how did Sir Walter Scott derive "glamour" from the same source? Grammar is glamorous — discuss.

2. Number in grammar means not getting your singulars and plurals in a twist. Will all those pedants who wrote in to gloat about the headline "Trivia of parish life blocks the message" in last Saturday's *Times* please "correct" the number of the following: there is no news; your stamina is strained; the agenda is too long; albums and conundrums; octopi and ignorami. Rewrite Paul: "The Wages of Sin IS Death."

3. "Few" is for countables, like (such as) cabbages and kings. "Less" is for uncountables, such as (like) sugar and spice. So rewrite in "correct" grammar the following sentences: "My house is less than five miles from the station. So it takes less than 15 minutes in a taxi, and costs less than £5." How many miles to Sodom? Less than a thousand. How many innocent men in Sodom? Fewer than ten.

4. The hippy cried out "Like, Help!" while drowning. That was the imprecision of Beat Talk. Another cast-iron grammatical rule is that "like" must be avoided in conjunctional uses, as in "she behaved like she was drunk". Now correct the slogan "X tastes good like a cigarette should." And while you are at it, correct Shakespeare ("Like an arrow shot from a well experienced Archer hits the mark his eye doth level at"), Jerome K. Jerome ("Did Robinson Crusoe wear trousers? I forget. Or did he go about like he does in the pantomime?"), Southey, Newman, Darwin, Morris and other "writers of standing". Which is worse — to be wrong with Shakespeare or right with Professor Prigwig?

5. A good judge should be *disinterested*, but never *uninterested* in his case. Now be so bold as to rewrite John Donne ("Cases, wherein the party is disinterested") and *Junius* ("A careless disinterested spirit is no part of his character"). The grammar of good writers of the past is not necessarily a guide to contemporary writing. But it shows that grammar is a rolling river, not commandments on tablets of stone. The grammar of ferocious pedants is always a generation out of date.

6. Thou shalt never split an infinitive. The Romans didn't, so why should you? But the Latin infinitive was one word *amare*, whereas English has two words "to love". And Romans did on occasion split an infinitive for effect, in the rhetorical device called tmesis. The classic example is Ennius, who split not an infinitive but a brain: *Saxo cere-comminuit -brum*. "With a rock his cere- he smashed -bellum." Some split infinitives cannot be avoided without rephrasing the sentence: "He was ashamed to so much as mention it to his wife." "The men are declared to strongly favour a strike." The only reason for obeying the fetish of not splitting an infinitive is that it will spare you impertinent abuse from ignorant pedants.

7. Amend into correct grammar: That's him: *Our Mutual Friend*; I wish I could play like you do; has he got a temperature? You are meticulous. Speculation is still rife as to whom will lead the England squad. "Whom" is fading away, as the inflections of nouns in Old English have gone. Nobody says "whom" except in funeral addresses or when trying to be hypercorrect, "between you and I". "Whom" has sat too long here for any good who have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with whom.

8. Writing and speaking precisely, in order to convey one's exact meaning with the right words, are finest arts. Grammar is glamorous. But grammar was made for and by man, not man for grammar. It is best taught to infants from the earliest age. That is what turns them into fans. And we carry on learning and changing grammar for the rest of our lives. To "learn" it by rules is as stupid as studying design without the objects of design, or as learning to drive by taking the engine to bits.

THE TIMES DIARY

Into battle

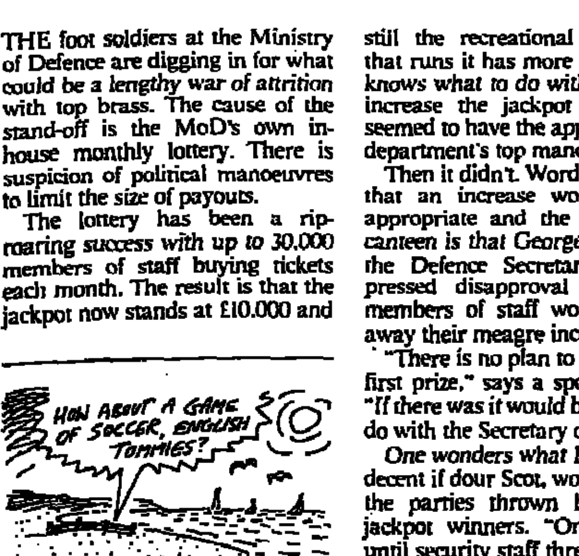
THE foot soldiers at the Ministry of Defence are digging in for what could be a lengthy war of attrition with top brass. The cause of the stand-off is the MoD's own in-house monthly lottery. There is suspicion of political manoeuvres to limit the size of payouts.

The lottery has been a rip-roaring success with up to 30,000 members of staff buying tickets each month. The result is that the jackpot now stands at £10,000 and still the recreational association that runs it has more cash than it knows what to do with. A plan to increase the jackpot to £20,000 seemed to have the approval of the department's top mandarins.

Then it didn't. Word came down that an increase would not be appropriate and the talk in the canteen is that George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, had expressed disapproval that lowly members of staff would gamble away their meagre incomes.

"There is no plan to increase the first prize," says a spokeswoman. "If there was it would be nothing to do with the Secretary of State."

One wonders what Robertson, a decent if dour Scot, would make of the parties thrown by previous jackpot winners. "One went on until security staff threw them out at 2am," says a senior suit.


HOW ABOUT A GAME OF SOCCER, ENGLISH TOMMIES?

Red letter day

BORIS YELTSIN will be glowing with pride this weekend. His 17-year-old grandson, Boris Jr, has got an A grade at A level while still in the lower sixth at Millfield School, Somerset. Cynics might suggest that it would have been embarrassing if he hadn't. The subject was Russian. Boris Okulov, who arrived at the public school last year sporting an upper lip of fine *glasnost* bum-fluff, will have plenty of chums to celebrate with. Eight Russians sat the exam and all got As.

● *A question mark appears above the relationship between pop's biggest hype merchants, Oasis, and Alan McGee, the head of Creation Records who discovered them. McGee, says he wants to buy a Scottish football club. Stranger still, he says he prefers footballers to rock stars. "I like them more because there's a humility about them. Most musicians think they're Dylan. But most of them are like Dylan off* The Magic Roundabout," *he tells* Four FourTwo *magazine.*

Hot stuff

SPARE a thought for Mahatma's grandson Gopal Krishna Gandhi as Independence Day celebrations get into full swing. The Indian High Commissioner to South Africa, where his grandfather spent much time, yesterday darted between talk shows in Johannesburg before racing to a flag-raising ceremony in Pretoria, then on to a hot plane to a reception in Durban with the city's large Indian community. Next to Cape Town for another knees-up with South African VIPs. "Just the three receptions with food, music and dancing," an embassy official said. Finally, back to Pretoria to greet a dance troupe from India. Like his grandpa, he is not one to do things by halves.

● *A correction from the Press Association regarding a story about Philip Croker, the swot who got seven A grades at A level: "...please read in final par "his place at Magdalen College, University of Oxford..." substituting "Magdalen" for "Maudlin".*

Grave error

HOT FOOT from the Plain English Campaign comes news that John Humphrys, Radio 4's rumbustious broadcaster, has won a "Foot in Mouth" award for his performance during an interview with the Australian High Commissioner on the *Today* programme yesterday.

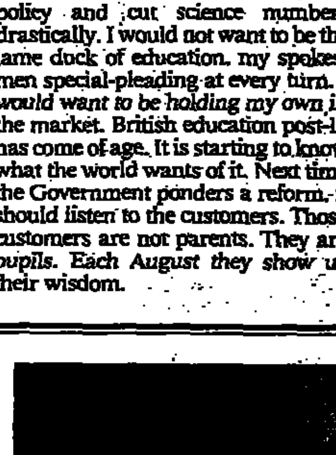
Humphrys asked Neal Blewett about the removal of the head of Yagan, the Aboriginal warrior, buried in a Liverpool grave, which is to be returned to Australia.

Blewett said that some small infants were buried above the head's grave and, after advice from archaeologists, it was decided to enter the grave "from the side, through paupers' graves". Humphrys stopped: "Wait a minute, I'm puzzled — the idea of burying porpoises?" A pause, and Blewett said: "*Paupers.*"

Model flat

WHILE Michael Caine is returning to these shores, his daughter, Natasha, is shipping out to pursue her modelling career in the US and selling her one-bedroom flat in The Village, Battersea, for a reputed £500,000.

Estate agents Douglas and Gordon claim they have already had inquiries, but prospective buyers should be aware that neighbours include Viscount Linley, Bob Geldof and Spice Girl, Mel B.



Natasha: on the move

● *Dodi Al Fayed did not perhaps astonish tutors at the exclusive Le Rosey School in Switzerland with his intellectual gifts. Neither did he quite master the art of the schoolboy excuse. A friend recalls that the school secretary once received a phone call on the first day of term from someone with a gruff voice explaining that Dodi would be a few days late back to school because he was a little poorly. "Oh, yes?" said the secretary. "And to whom am I speaking?" The gruff voice said: "This is my father."*

P·H·S

[illegible]

Philip Howard

BORDERLINE GRADE

Education policy must reconcile excellence and expansion

In the brief interlude between A-level and GCSE results the performance of the examination system needs scrutiny. The Dearing report was one more element in what has been a period of extraordinary upheaval in education. The O level and CSE have been merged, the A level has evolved and polytechnics have transformed themselves into universities. The proportion of all schoolchildren entering higher education has increased from barely 12.5 per cent to nearly three times that. It is, however, far from clear that these changes leave students, or the nation, better served.

The introduction of the GCSE a decade ago has proved the most important innovation. The provision of one single test has encouraged 80 per cent or more of 16-year-olds to stay on at school. For a majority in this age group, the GCSE is a better qualification than the old CSE. However, the O level was more stretching for the brightest students. Quality has been diluted for the sake of a universal formula.

The sharp difference in style between the GCSE and A level makes the former rather poor preparation for the latter. That should logically have led to a decline in the pass rate at 18, but the opposite has happened. The explanations offered are illuminating. The best schools are teaching their pupils in an A-level style from the age of 14. The GCSE is regarded as a distraction which headmasters feel obliged to recognise largely to satisfy parental expectations. The proliferation of new subjects, along with the increased resort to modular exams, has allowed A-level boards to make the adjustment from GCSE much easier. More students may acquire certificates, but at what cost in excellence?

The abolition of the distinction between universities and polytechnics has had a similar impact to the fusion of O-levels and CSEs, but with an important difference. The decision had many virtues and was probably inevitable. Some polytechnics had an academic record to rival that of traditional universities but suffered from an artificial disparity of status. The emergence of a single sector has challenged old cultures. Many universities have emerged the stronger for the competition — it is the former polytechnics that have lost out. Many of these "new" universities have shed valuable vocational courses in favour of dubious new degrees and yet have still not secured the esteem they wanted.

If experience teaches anything, it should suggest considerable caution when considering proposals to reform the A level. In theory, there is much in the argument that the examination is at present rather narrowly constructed. There is something to be said for broadening education between the ages of 16 and 18 through a supplementary emphasis on literacy, numeracy and information technology. A revamped and rigorous AS level followed in the first year of sixth-form study would have much to recommend it. An "English baccalaureat" that extended rather than amended the A level would be worth exploration. The fear based on past practice is that such a shift would disguise another slip in standards.

The Government can allay concerns if it deals with the current defects in the examination system. The academic quality of A levels would be reinforced by much stricter regulation of the modular method. The introduction of applied A levels, as recommended by Sir Ron Dearing, would do much to restore the vocational element. In the medium term it might well be asked whether the GCSE still has a role in an era when the effective school-leaving age has ceased to be 16. The principles of excellence and expansion are not inherently incompatible. They must be reconciled if our students are to receive the best possible education.

CRACKING THE DRUG TRADE

Colombia needs help in curbing the deadly flow

The decision by Colombia's Supreme Court to reject the challenge to the law mandating the seizure of assets acquired with drug money is a brave step. In fighting the scourge that has all but overwhelmed it, the Colombian Government and the courts have been held at gunpoint, often all too literally, by the formidably powerful drug barons and those they have bought, suborned and intimidated. The present law, passed in December after strong pressure from Washington, is one of the most effective ways of depriving traffickers of their gains, and has already led to the confiscation of banks, businesses, ranches, farms and huge tracts of land. The drug interests, seeing the loss of millions of dollars-worth of laundered profits, challenged the law on the ground that it violated the right to private property. To its credit, the court has refused to give in.

President Samper's term in office has been dogged by the accusation that drug interests funded his campaign. Having won his battle against impeachment, however, he has now pursued the campaign against the narcotics trade with vigour. He has little alternative. Drugs have all but destroyed one of the oldest democracies in Latin America. In the past decade more than 20,000 people, including judges, journalists and policemen, have been killed in the drugs war. Colombia has one of the highest murder rates in the world. Last year the fight against narcotics cost the State $2.1 billion — almost as much as the money brought into Colombia by the drugs trade.

There have been some successes. Pablo Escobar, head of the Medellin cartel, has been killed and his gang largely disbanded. The leaders of the Cali cartel are mostly in jail. The Government has eradicated 73,000 acres of coca and poppy, confiscated 615,000 kilos of coca leaf and 57,000 kilos of pure cocaine and destroyed processing laboratories, clandestine airstrips and precursor chemicals. All this, however, is nothing compared with the scale of the drug trade. Interdiction, the Government reckons, has at best a 10 per cent success rate. Farmers and villagers who can never earn as much from legal plantings are continuing to grow drug crops in the highlands and deep jungle, paid in advance by traffickers.

The drugs trade is exacerbating two other evils: rampant kidnapping and the virtual civil war between the two powerful and violent guerrilla movements and the 80,000-strong paramilitary forces. The 40-year-old war against the guerrillas is almost the last left in Latin America. But the former Marxists, who once posed as champions of the poor and received their funds from communist countries, now appear to have no ideology apart from self-enrichment from the proceeds of robbery, kidnapping and the drugs trade. The Government is struggling to curb the appalling human rights abuses by its own military forces; but it has found no way of starting negotiations with the guerrillas, who have not issued any political demand for some five years.

Señor Samper insists that his country cannot halt the trade in the face of overwhelming demand and money for drugs in America. Denied certification by Washington that he is doing enough to halt production, he has turned in despair to the United Nations, and wants a conference of drug producing and user countries. This is now on next year's agenda. It may not yield much. But it ought at least to convince America and Europe that curbing demand is the essential first step in halting the flow of drugs from Latin America's killing fields.

CAN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE

Elvis lives in the hearts of the young, of whatever age

Wise men say only fools rush in, but after 20 years the time is ripe for a measured assessment of how a snake-hipped youth from Tupelo insinuated himself so potently into the world's imagination. Elvis Presley died 20 years ago today, overweight and played-out, a dysfunctional Dionysus who left behind a beautiful widow and a back catalogue that breaks hearts still. His talent assured him a form of immortality, long before stray sightings suggested it was more than the melody which lived on, but although Elvis was unique, his fame was as much a product of circumstance as genius.

A white kid who could sing the blues like a black man was a precious asset in the Fifties but Elvis might have wasted his vocal sweetness on Tupelo's desert air but for the blessings of the baby-boom age. The prosperity of the Eisenhower era brought affordable portable transistors, the rapid growth of commercial radio and television and the emergence of a new generation of "teenagers" with the money and freedom to enjoy themselves as their parents never could. Before the Second World War there was no antechamber to adulthood, but in the Fifties youth found its winkle-pickered feet and the teenager was born. His screen heroes were James Dean and Marlon Brando, but film was a medium familiar to his parents. Rock'n'roll, by contrast, was the teenager's secret garden and Elvis its presiding deity.

From the pelvic gyrations which drove Bible-belt parents to press for his suppression, to the quiff like a coiled serpent, he embodied temptation for a generation in hock to its hormones. His voice, capable of the depth necessary for a negro spiritual yet ready to soar and swoop over a dancefloor, was the perfect vehicle for a range of rebellious rock numbers and slower ballads. Elvis, like all immortals, had a protean quality. The cheek-twitching outlaw of the *Hound Dog* era effortlessly transformed himself into the clean-cut Sergeant of *GI Blues*. The adaptation did credit to more than Presley's showbusiness talent. The god-fearing son of the South neither dodged nor derided the draft, in contrast to the smaller men who danced in his shadow. Only this week more revelations of Presley's patriotism have come to light. The White House has released new material detailing Presley's quixotic offer of help to Richard Nixon in the President's fight against the abuse of street drugs.

Tragically, it was addiction that ended the dream but although the Elvis that the impersonators mimic is the bloated and rococo figure of his long decline, the image that survives is the young man who embodied youth for the first generation that created a youth culture. Elvis lives as the icon of youth's passion, rebellion and energy — which is why successive generations can't help falling in love with him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hot under collar about forecasts

From Professor Maurice Crosland

Sir, Many parts of Britain have recently undergone a period of high temperatures combined with high humidity. The former have always been faithfully reported but the latter is almost always bathed in mystery: radio, television and the press may warn us that it is going to be "very humid" or even "sticky", but precisely *how humid* is never revealed, even though that may be more directly relevant to the discomfort of the public than the temperature.

Temperature alone is publicised and a temperature of 90F is spoken of with awe, as if it made the ordinary conduct of life impossible; yet in the *dry* heat of North Africa normal life continues at temperatures in excess of 90F.

Our American cousins, who suffer greater extremes of climate than ourselves, are sensible enough to publicise equally temperature and humidity, knowing that one datum without the other is no more than a half-truth.

In the early history of medicine all that was reported about a patient's pulse might be that it was "rapid", and it was not until after 1850 that doctors would record the actual temperature of a patient.

As the 20th century draws to a close, may I enter a plea to the media to complement its very basic qualitative vocabulary with a quantitative element and let the British public know the actual degree of humidity.

Yours faithfully,
MAURICE CROSLAND,
University of Kent at Canterbury,
School of History,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NX.
August 13.

From Mr Andy Marks

Sir, In common with my fellow citizens I have endured the recent high levels of temperature and humidity. As one of the Met Office's commercial customers I have also endured its recent low levels of forecast accuracy.

Curious to establish how accurate the Met Office thought its own forecasts were over the last 12 months, I looked in vain for the figures in the office's annual report and accounts for 1996-97.

Instead, on page 23 I found, under "Key Quality Service Target", a "Customer Satisfaction Index for services on national BBC TV and Radio 4." The result is 0.82. What on earth is a customer satisfaction index and from where does it materialise?

I also hunted through the office's 1995-96 report for notification that the accuracy figures as measured by the 5.55pm Radio 4 forecast were to be abandoned. To my surprise, in an appendix on page 46 under "Charter Standard for the Public", I found the statement that "the accuracy target [of 84 per cent] remains unchanged for 1996-97."

Can the actual figure have been so bad that they can't bring themselves to publish it?

Yours despondently,
ANDY MARKS (partner),
Skyscan (aerial photography),
Oak House, Toddington,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
August 13.

Cricketing fatalities

From Mr Mark Hathaway

Sir, Angry exchanges between cricketers (report, August 13) are nothing new. Until at least the 1820s, after which the controversies induced by gambling seem to have declined, newspaper coverage is resplendent with disputes between players which conclude in violence, crowd disorder and even murder. Such consistent antagonism arose from the large sums wagered and played for and the ambiguous nature of the rules then employed.

On October 31, 1776, the *London Chronicle* reported of a match between Kent and Essex at Tilbury Fort

> ... the Essex men refused playing, on which a battle ensued, and the Kentish men being likely to be worsted, one of them ran into the guard-room, and getting a gun from one of the invalids, fired and killed one of the opposite party.

The final death toll was at least three — two shot and one bayoneted. History once again demonstrates that current events could be much, much worse.

Yours faithfully,
M. D. HATHAWAY,
Kellogg College, Oxford.
August 14.

From Mr Raymond Franks

Sir, Magnus Linklater (article, August 14) supports his view that the "so-called deterioration" of behaviour on the cricket field is nothing new by referring to the occasion when W. G. Grace replaced a bail. It had been knocked off by the bowler but Grace blamed it on the wind.

In fact Grace did not get away with this ploy. The game was being played in Yorkshire, and the story is that, following his replacement of the bail, he turned to the umpire and remarked: "It's very windy today, umpire."

The umpire is said to have replied: "It is that, Doctor Grace. See it doesn't blaw thi cap off on t'way back to t'pavilion."

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND FRANKS,
Hillcrest House, Manor Gardens,
Thorner, West Yorkshire.
August 14.

Future of Africa is not all gloomy

From Mr William Quantrill

Sir, How depressing to read Matthew Parris's negative picture of modern-day Africa, headed "Africa's real epidemic" (August 8).

His statement that most of the former French West African countries "cannot be discussed as 'countries' at all" is extraordinary. I spent from 1991 to 1995 as British Ambassador to a group of countries — Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea — which included several ex-French territories. I can assure Parris that they were very real countries, in every sense. Certainly they all had their problems — corruption and inefficiency among them — but all of them had functioning civil societies. To question whether they satisfy the basic criteria in international law for the existence of a state is absurd.

Of course, it is equally wrong to be starry-eyed about the prospects for Africa. There is much hardship and deprivation, too much violence, weak leadership and, yes, the blight of corruption. But there is also a consensus emerging about what should be done to tackle the problems.

Most African countries now either have democratic governments (albeit in many cases still functioning imperfectly) or at least acknowledge that they should have them. Economic reforms are coming slowly but are beginning to show results in a few countries and others will undoubtedly follow.

It will not be easy. It will need sustained international support, focused on the needs of Africa and not simply on the role it can play in a wider political struggle — such as the Cold War — that was largely irrelevant to Africa. And does it not occur to Matthew Parris that the vast numbers of refugees in Africa, sad symbol though they are of too many bitter conflicts, are also indicative of a tradition of hospitality, of giving shelter and support to neighbours in time of trouble?

Yours sincerely,
BILL QUANTRILL,
Tor House, 36 Newtown,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.
wquantrill@msn.com

From Mr Graham Simons

Sir, I have been involved with a community in rural Kenya for many years, and agree wholeheartedly with Matthew Parris's accurate and passionate article.

The fact is that for many Africans national government is a near-irrelevance: villagers earn too little to pay tax and gain little in services. But a wide range of projects are thriving at village level. Some are supported by aid agencies, some by national organisations like Maendeleo ya Wanawake ("development for women") in Kenya, but many are entirely locally inspired and locally managed.

Millions of people across Africa are involved in providing water, sanitation, education, secure food supplies, basic healthcare and income generation. The burden falls to a great extent on women: there is encouraging progress and well-founded hope for the future.

The future of Africa is not only in the hands of the corrupt politicians and officials, but importantly in the capable hands of the people themselves.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM SIMONS,
Little Croft,
Bere Court Road,
Pangbourne, Berkshire.
August 10.

From Mr James E. Hulme

Sir, Matthew Parris, covering a huge subject in a few column inches, rightly cites all-embracing corruption as Africa's progress-stultifying sickness. But his recollections of childhood holidays in Mozambique, and of Rwanda as "a gentle, populous, sunny backwater", reflect an underlying question which he does not address: was the old order defensible?

Almost any type of order, even modern developments of the old regimes, would surely be better than those which currently suffocate Africa. I despair for the continent of my birth.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES E. HULME,
7 Chiltley Way,
Liphook, Hampshire.
August 8.

Foxhunting's place in country life

From Mr Mark Crichton Maitland

Sir, Clive Aslet ("Beware smoke signals from the rural bonfire", August 9) is right both to lament the Government's handling of countryside issues and to suggest that the foxhunting issue will not go away.

Earlier this month the Forestry Commission, a government department which is also one of the country's largest landowners, announced a review of hunting on its land. In this part of Scotland, where foxhunting and forestry happily coexist, we can see no internal need for such a review.

At the risk of being cynical, one has to suspect that this is a backdoor attempt by politicians to damage or ban field sports without the need for contentious legislation. Such a move would be thoroughly undemocratic, and if true is to be deplored. Public institutions of all kinds should follow the democratic process and not seek to sideline or pre-empt it.

Perhaps the Forestry Commission review will be followed by a Ministry of Defence review?

Yours faithfully,
MARK CRICHTON MAITLAND,
Estate Office,
Elderslie & Houston Estates,
Kirk Road, Houston, Renfrewshire.

From Mr Nick Palmer, MP for Broxtowe (Labour)

Sir, Clive Aslet accuses new Labour MPs of naivete in opposing hunting, and complains of an alleged general lack of sympathy for the countryside in government ranks. As a new MP from suburban/rural Nottinghamshire, may I put a different view?

Most Labour MPs nowadays are instinctively "green", and we spend a lot of time listening to groups campaigning for the protection of the countryside. However, the so-called Countryside Movement, organisers of last month's rally in Hyde Park, and the Editor of *Country Life* seem to feel that the touchstone is support for hunting foxes with hounds.

This is quite simply nonsense: most country-dwellers are as repelled as anyone by the idea of chasing an animal to death for sport. Personally, I would listen more attentively to Mr Aslet's other points if he stopped trying to nail the countryside to the cross of foxhunting.

Yours sincerely,
NICK PALMER,
House of Commons.
76276.2147@compuserve.com
August 9.

Buying British

From Mrs Beryl V. Pardoe

Sir, Mr Richard Whitehead (letter, August 12) asks what is going on when a bottle of Indian lager sells for less than English bottled water. Should he visit Malvern I can show him a water spout half a mile from here where he can collect as much free water as he can carry.

He may have a long wait as many people are surrounded by their four-gallon containers. Last year I saw a small water tank in the process of being filled. Perhaps the water for which Mr Whitehead paid £2.95 came from such an entrepreneur.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL V. PARDOE,
Hebron House, Blackheath Way,
West Malvern, Worcestershire.

BT's disservice

From Mr John Dover

Sir, You published a letter from me on July 28 regarding my having registered, inter alia, with BT's Telephone Preference Service to stop "junk" telephone calls. I received replies from readers thanking me for the information and telling me that that service had been overwhelmed with requests for registration forms.

At 7pm this evening I was the subject of an unsolicited call from BT trying to sell me additional services.

Yours faithfully,
J. DOVER,
9 Greenhill Avenue,
Giffnock, Glasgow.
jdover@mba1963.hbs.edu
August 11.

Weekend Money letters, page 35

Legacy of the Raj

From Mrs A. G. N. Verity

Sir, Amidst all the celebrations of independence from Britain in India and Pakistan, at last there is today some acknowledgement (Mr C. M. Bolt's letter) of the "valued facets" of the British legacy to those countries.

In the latter part of the last century both my grandfathers, for the best part of their working lives, were in the Indian Civil Service. Many of their days were spent in dispensing justice, or, for example, inspecting schools, hospitals and prisons for the betterment of the people in their districts.

Above all the Indian Civil Service was incorruptible. The only presents they were allowed to receive were fruit and flowers. What a pity that this part of the British legacy has not survived.

Yours faithfully,
AUDREY VERITY,
17 Jocelyn Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
August 15.

School food

From Mrs Jerome Roche

Sir, My late husband, who attended a monastic prep school where life c1954 was barely sustainable without frequent food parcels from home, ascribed much of his lifelong devotion to traditional Catholic liturgy to the fact that, if he rose early and served Mass for one of the monks, he could go to the kitchen and claim the crusts from the masters' toast to supplement his breakfast (letters, August 11, 12, 14).

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ROCHE,
31 Sideling Fields,
Tiverton, Devon.
August 12.

A touchstone for philosophers

From Mr Graham Coy

Sir, Dr Roger Scruton remarks correctly ("The return of the sophist", August 11) that charlatans masquerading as philosophers can cause a great deal of harm. This harm can be done either on a local scale, as by the fee-paid sophist, or a more cosmic scale, as by salaried or tenured men such as Hegel (the philosophical lapdog of the Prussian State) or Nietzsche, whose works had such an unfortunate effect on German nationalist fanatics.

But a philosopher must have financial support. Socrates may not have taken fees, but must have had some money.

Perhaps the ideal is to inherit an independent income, as did Descartes (who was thereby emboldened to remark that "there is nothing one can imagine so strange or unbelievable that it has not been said by one or other of the philosophers . . .").

Let us not forget, however, that financial independence is a necessary, not sufficient, qualification for the pursuit of pure truth (if such exists).

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM COY,
Flat 28, Dormy House,
Central Drive, Bournemouth, Dorset.
August 14.

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, Of course there are some meretricious academics about who parade as philosophers, but Roger Scruton is surely unduly narrow when he would bestow the title of genuine philosophers on only those who tell us that the distinctions between true and false, right and wrong, are "objective and binding".

By that canon David Hume, for example, would not make the grade, though a whole lot of dogmatic thinkers who use the utmost integrity in forcing arguments and experience to fit into their preconceptions of right and wrong would qualify.

So far from philosophy standing against the tide of "helpless relativism", it has powerfully contributed towards it, precisely by stimulating that spirit of inquiry which Roger Scruton finds in Plato. Yet Plato's proposals for censorship would have had the effect of stifling that very spirit, and they would find an echo in many other philosophies, from St Augustine's to that of Marxist-Leninism, which hold that the distinctions between right and wrong are "objective and binding".

Yours faithfully,
RALPH BLUMENAU,
111 Princes House,
50 Kensington Park Road, W11.
August 11.

Too many peers

From Mr Alan J. Kennard

Sir, The creation of 57 life peers (report, August 2) raises once again the question of the size of the House of Lords, which has grown from 884 in 1958, when the Life Peerages Act was passed, until today, when the number of peers is about 1,200, of whom about 400 are life peers. In 1914 the roll of the House of Lords stood at 641.

In the past 40 years Conservative and Labour prime ministers have named an unprecedented number of life peers, but many of these peers play little or no part in the working of Parliament.

Any future plans for the second chamber should include provision for a much smaller membership. In the meantime, an immediate step could be the introduction of an upper age limit of, say, 80 years of age for hereditary and life peers to participate in the business of the Lords.

Now that we have a fixed retiring age for judges it would be appropriate to do the same for those who are part of the law-making process.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. KENNARD,
4 Ashburnham Close, N2.
August 11.

Nothing to brag about?

From Mr Phil Smith

Sir, What a shame that Melvyn Bragg ("Is Jerusalem being builded here?", Arts, August 11) should waste his wide-ranging powers of intellect on eulogising something as creepy as new Labour. Up here in Burnley over the last ten days I've heard not so much the "roar of energy and ideas" as the creak of just another government settling in to enjoy power and look after itself.

After all, what are governments for? And aren't writers and artists supposed to be there to make life as uncomfortable and difficult as possible for them?

Tony Blair may be taking Mr Bragg and his chums with him into some new Jerusalem, but here amongst what's left of the Satanic mills the unemployed, the poor, the old and the sick are still waiting for the call.

Yours faithfully,
PHIL SMITH,
The Stables,
The Old Coach House,
Holme-in-Cliviger,
Burnley, Lancashire.
August 11.

Letters may be faxed to
0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: ***letters@the-times.co.uk***

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 15: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Princess Royal.

University of Ulster

The following have been awarded honorary degrees at the *University of Ulster:*

DSc:
Professor Robin Fox, distinguished anthropologist
Mr Gary Player, for outstanding contributions *to* professional golf and for close links forged with Northern Ireland
Dr Edward Walsh, for outstanding contribution to higher education.

DUniv:
Mrs Jill McIvor, in recognition of outstanding public service
Mr Alderman Samuel Semple, for outstanding and long contribution to public service in Northern Ireland.

DLitt:
Mr Sean O'Dwyer, for outstanding contribution to the University of Ulster
Mr Gerrard Robinson, for outstanding contribution to industry and commerce, especially in the fields of television and hotels, catering and tourism
Baroness Williams of Crosby, for outstanding contribution to public and academic life.

MUniv:
Mr Patrick Daniel Rodgers, *for his outstanding role as a* community leader in Tory Island.

Latest wills

The 10th **Baron Calthorpe**, of Buryfields, Guildford, Surrey, left estate valued at £119,500 net.

The 7th **Earl Cadogan**, of *Snaigow, Dunkeld, Perth*shire, left estate valued at £nil.

Elizabeth Irving **Griffith-Davies**, of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,267,151 net.
She left to her farm manager, Kenneth Read, the house in which he resides along with the adjoining field: £500 each to Moore Cottage Hospital, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire Historic Churches *Preservation Trust, and the Parish of* St Lawrence, Bourton-on-the-Water.

Marcus Newens **Bradford**, of Great Shelford, Cambridge, left estate valued at £1,425,068 net.
He left £1,000 to the Parish of Holy Trinity, Cambridge.

Moosa Mohammed **Patel**, of London SW15, left estate valued at £1,014,375 net.

Constance Russell **Stacey**, of New Malden, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,486,000 net.

Barbers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Barbers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Anthony John Bartley Missen: Upper Warden, Alderman Sir John Chalstrey: Middle Warden, Lord McColl of Dulwich; Renter Warden, Mr George Grant Macdonald; Deputy Master, Mr Robin Russell Clive Bloofield.

Inns of Court School of Law

D.N. Lewis, Lincoln's Inn, was among those who passed the 1996-97 Bar Vocational Course by training and assess*ment (competent). His initials* were wrongly given in *The Times* on Wednesday.

MARTYN HAYHOW

Sergeant Ernest "Smokey" Smith, VC, talks to members of the colour party after he had laid wreaths at Brookwood *Military Cemetery, Surrey, in memory of the Canadians who died during the Second World War. Sergeant Smith is* one of 35 veterans who are travelling with Fred Mifflin, the Canadian Minister of Veteran Affairs, to France to mark the 55th anniversary on Tuesday of the disastrous Dieppe raid when 3,379 Canadians were lost

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Richard Webb, NSM Assistant Curate, Hanwell St Mary w. St Christopher (London): to be NSM Associate Vicar, same benefice with special responsibility for St Christopher's.

The Rev Ian Whittle, Associate Chaplain, The Hague (Europe): to be *Priest-in-*Charge, Ashwicken, Gayton, Gayton Thorpe, East Walton and East Winch (Norwich).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Raymond Beardall, Vicar, St Mary of the Purification, Blidworth (Southwell) to retire November 30.

The Rev Joy Carroll, Assistant Curate, Immanuel, Streatham (Southwark) to resign October 31.

The Rev Gerald Clothier, Rector, Rougham (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) to retire September 30.

The Rev Charmian Crossman, NSM Priest-in-Charge, Thursby (Carlisle) to retire September 30.

The Rev John Flint, Assistant Curate, Derby St Luke's (Derby) to retire August 31.

The Rev Peter Gausden, Rector, Sturry w Fordwich and Westbere w Hersden (Canter*bury) to retire September 30.*

The Rev Alfred Graham, Vicar, Burton Joyce w Bulcote and Stoke Bardolph (Southwell) to retire November 12.

The Rev George Hall, Honorary Curate, Purton (Bristol) resigned June 30.

The Rev Alex Simpson, Kensington St Helen (London) retired July 31.

The Rev Alan Towell, Vicar, The Resurrection, Scunthorpe (Lincoln) to retire August 31.

The Rev Bryan Wells, Team Vicar, St Francis, Monk's Hill, Selsdon (Southwark) to resign August 31.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.W.F. Black and Miss S.G. O'Brien
The engagement is announced between Alex, younger son of Mr and Mrs Francis Black, of Wing, Buckinghamshire, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael O'Brien, of Albany, New York.

Mr R.K. Dickinson and Miss E.S. Nichols
The engagement is announced between Richard, *only* son of Mr and Mrs John Dickinson, of Brussels, Belgium, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Nichols, of Wandsworth, *London.*

Mr A.J.A.L. Gault and Miss S.K. Wildig
The marriage will take place today, at West Grinstead Church, West Sussex, of Adam James, son of Jonathan and Sarah Gault, of Heathfield, East Sussex, to Sarah Kathleen, daughter of Tony and Margaret Wildig, of Wassenaar, Holland.

Mr P.C.M. Irons and Miss K.F. Haldane
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Marriott Irons, of Chorley Wood, *Hertfordshire,* and Karen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Haldane, of Cloan, Perthshire.

Dr P.O. Wilkinson and Miss H.A. Usher
The engagement is announced between Paul Oliver, elder son of Dr and Mrs S.P. Wilkinson, of Newton Ferrers, Devon, and Heather Anne, daughter of Professor and Mrs M.B. Usher, of Dunnington, York.

Marriages

Don R. Martinez Parales and Miss A.L. Gorman
The marriage took place on Friday, August 8, 1997, at Killinchy Parish Church, Co Down, between Don Ricardo Martinez Parales and Miss Anne Louise Gorman.

Mr N.M. Penney and Miss K.A.L. McSweeney
The marriage took place on August 15, 1997, at St Raphael's Church, Kingston upon Thames, of Mr Neill Martin Penney, *son of Mrs* Marianne Penney and Dr Geoffrey Penney, to Miss Katharine Anne Louise McSweeney, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence McSweeney.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Bruce Beresford, film director, 57; Judge Barrington Black, 65; the Right Rev Ronald Bowlby, 71; Miss Ann Chant, former chief executive, Child Support Agency, 52; Sir Philip Dowson, President, Royal Academy, 73; Mr George Galloway, MP, 43; Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield, 63; Miss Katharine Hamnett, fashion designer, 50; Mr Trevor McDonald, broadcaster, 58; Madonna, singer, 38; Sir Donald Maitland, civil servant and diplomat, 75; Mr *Tom* Maschler, publisher, Jonathan Cape, 64; Mr John Standing, actor, 63; Miss Helen Storey, fashion designer, 38; Professor W. St C. Symmers, pathologist, 80; Mr Jeff Thomson, cricketer, 47; Mr Arthur Walsh, former chairman, Northern Telecom Europe, 71; Sir Jack Wellings, former chairman, The 600 Group, 80; Professor Brian Woledge, FBA, Emeritus Professor of French, London University, 93.

TOMORROW: Mr Ian Brindle, senior partner, Price Waterhouse, 54; Mr Hugo Brunner, Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, 62; Mr C.A.M. Busch, former chairman, Philips Electronics and Associated Industries, 60; Mr Jim Courier, tennis player, 27; Mr Robin Cousins, ice-skater, 40; Mr Robert De Niro, actor, 54; Mr D.L. Donne, former chairman, Argos, 72; Sir Leonard Figg, diplomat, 74; Mr Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate, 67; Mr John Humphrys, broadcaster, 54; Miss Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 63; Mr I.G. McAllister, chairman, Ford Motor Company, 54; Mr Graham McCourt, racehorse trainer, 38; Mr Seamus Mallon, MP, 61; Professor Sir Leslie Martin, architect, 89; Mr George Melly, jazz singer, 71; Mr Alan Minter, former boxer, 46; Sir Alan Munro, diplomat, 62; Sir Vidia Naipaul, author, 65; Mr John Naylor, former national secretary, National Council of YMCAs, 54; Mr Hamish Orr-Ewing, former chairman, Rank Xerox, 73; Dr E.S. Page, former Vice-Chancellor, Reading University, 69; Mr Nelson Piquet, former racing driver, 45; Ms Sue Robertson, chief executive, London Arts Board, 45; Mr Richard Stott, former Editor, *Today*, 54; Miss Alfreda Thorogood, ballerina, 55; Mr Guillermo Vilas, tennis player, 45; Mrs Susan Williams, former Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, 82; Professor Michael Wise, geographer, 79; Professor Sir Tony Wrigley, FBA, Master, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 66.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Ralph Thoresby, antiquary, Leeds, 1658; Catherine Cockburn, dramatist, London, 1679; Carolina Oliphant, Lady Nairne, songwriter, Gask, Perthshire, 1766; Arthur Cayley, mathematician, Richmond, Surrey, 1821; Jules Laforgue, poet, Montevideo, 1860; Dame Mary Gilmore, poet, Goulburn, New South Wales, 1865; T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), Tremadoc, 1888; Georgette Heyer, historical novelist, *London, 1902; Houari Boume*dienne, President of Algeria 1965-78, Guelma, 1932.

DEATHS: Thomas Fuller, scholar, London, 1661; Jacques Bernoulli, mathematician, Basle, 1705; Ramakrishna, teacher and writer, Calcutta, 1886; Jean Martin Charcot, physician, Morvan, France, 1893; Robert Bunsen, chemist, Heidelberg, 1899; Umberto Boccioni, sculptor, Verona, 1916; Sir Joseph Norman Lockyer, astronomer, Salcombe Regis, Devon, 1920; "Babe" Ruth, baseball player, New York, 1948; Douglas Hogg, 1st Viscount Hailsham, Lord Chancellor 1928-29 and 1935-38, Sussex, 1950; Louis Jouvet, actor, Paris, 1951; Irving Langmuir, physicist, Falmouth, Massachusetts, 1957; Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist, Lakeville, Connecticut, 1959; Selman Waksman, discoverer of streptomycin, Nobel laureate 1952, Hyannis, Massachusetts, 1973; Elvis Presley, singer and actor, Memphis, Tennessee, 1977; John George Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada 1957-63, 1979.

The Peterloo massacre took place at St Peter's Field, Manchester, 1819.

Cyprus became an independent republic, 1960.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Thomas Stothard, painter, London, 1755; William Carey, oriental scholar, *Paulerspury, Northampton*shire, 1761; George Croly, clergyman and writer, Dublin, 1780; Davy Crockett, frontiersman and politician, Tennessee, 1786; Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, poet, Petworth House, Sussex, 1840; Henry Drummond, theologian, Stirling, 1851; Oliver St John Gogarty, writer, Dublin, 1878; Mae West, actress, New York, 1893.

DEATHS: John Gower, poet, London, 1408; King Edward V, reigned 1483, London, 1483; Frederick the Great, King of Prussia 1740-86, Potsdam, 1786; Matthew Boulton, engineer, Birmingham, 1809; Sir *Bannister* Fletcher, architect and architectural historian, London, 1953; Fernand Léger, painter, Gif-sur-Yvette, 1955; Sir John Marshall, archaeologist, Guildford, Surrey, 1958; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, architect, Chicago, 1969; Conrad Aiken, novelist and poet, Savannah, Georgia, 1973; Ira Gershwin, lyricist, Beverly Hills, California, 1983; Rudolf Hess, Nazi war criminal, Spandau prison, Berlin, 1987; Harry Corbett, puppeteer and entertainer, 1989.

The registration of births, deaths and marriages was introduced into Britain, 1836.

Gold was first discovered in the Klondyke, Canada, 1896.

The first pedestrian to be knocked down and killed by a motor vehicle in Britain was Mrs Bridget Driscoll of Croydon, Surrey, who was hit by a car travelling at 4 mph, 1896.

Church services tomorrow

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, ABERDEEN: 8 HC: 10.15 S Euch: 6.30 Ch E.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 Ch *Euch, Shepherd in D. Lord for thy tender* mercy's sake (Hilton), The Dean; 3.15 E.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Boreol Weddi; 11 Euch; 5 Cymun Bendigaid.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9.15 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Mass of El Salvador (Cuellar), Rev D Lee; 4 EP, O Holy City (Howells), Magnificat (Jones).

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M: 10.30 Euch, Leighton in D, Blessed are those servants (Moeran), Canon Galilee: 4 Ch E, O Lord the maker (Joubert), Canon Hall.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 11 M, Te Deum in C (Britten), Ave Maria (Parsons), Canon E John; 3.15 E, Noble in B minor, Ye that now sorrow (Brahms)

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: *7.40 M; 8 HC: 10 Ch Euch; 3.30 Ch E.*

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Salvator mundi (Tallis), St Nicholas Mass (Haydn): 3.15 E, Hail, gladdening Light (Wood); 6.30 Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Fugue in E minor (Bach), Canon D Baxter; 3 E, Responses (Shephard), Stanford in B flat.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch: 11.15 S Euch; 6 Ch E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: *7.45 L: 8 HC: 10* Euch, Ireland in C, O Lord increase my faith (Loosemore), Canon J Newcome; 11.30 Ch M, Responses (Clucas), Te Deum (Britten), Canon M Rees: 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Clucas), Murrill in E: 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 10 M,* Stanford in B flat, Jubilate in C (Britten), The Precentor; 11 S Euch, Beati quorum via (Stanford), Rev E Knapp-Fisher: 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, Mass for four *voices (Byrd). Canon Ward; 6 E, Responses* (Smith), Stanford in B flat.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7 MP; 10.30 Euch, Rev A Darby: 5 EP.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Sacredotes Domini (Byrd), Of the glorious body telling (Victoria), A Flintham.

DUBLIN CATHEDRAL: 11 SE, Let thy merciful ears (Weelkes): 3.30 CE, The King of love (Bairstow).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, At the round earth's imagin'd corners (Hoiby), Rev A Gelston: 11.15 HC, Darke in F, Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), Canon M Perry: 3.30 E, Stanford in G, And I saw a new heaven (Bairstow).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.45 E.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon K Parry: 11.15 M, Responses (Smith), Stanford in B flat, Canon K Parry: 3 E, Responses (Smith), Stanford in C; 6.30 ES, Turn back O man (Holst), Rev G Daxter.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC: 10.15 Euch, Darke in A minor, Canon L Houlden: 3 E, O come, ye servants of the Lord (Tye), Let all the world (Vaughan Williams).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Mr D MacMillan; 11.15 M, Te deum in F (Darke), Exultate justi (Viadana), Rev A *Hodgetts; 6.30 E, Bairstow in D, Blessed city,* heavenly Salem (Bairstow), Rev R Steele-Perkins.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 10 Euch, Schubert in G, Sing joyfully unto God (Byrd), The Dean: 3 Opening Service.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: *8 HC; 10 MP;* 10.30 Euch, Toccata in D minor (Dorian), The Provost: 4 Ch E.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), The Precentor; 3.30 E, Responses (Smith), Wood in F.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Tantum ergo (Vierne), The Precentor: 11.15 M, Collegium regale (Howells), Ave verum stella (Grieg), The Subdean: 3.45 E, Let all the world (Leighton).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Rev H Thomas; 3 Ch E, Canon M Wolfe: 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 11 S Euch, Darke in E, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), The Dean: 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Byrd), Sumsion in G: 6.30 E, Rev M R E Tomlinson.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M: 10.30 S Euch, When David heard (Tomkins), Canon P Denby: 6.30 EP

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, *Agnus Dei* (Shephard), *D Govier:* 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Angelica (Burgess), Domine Deus (Morales)

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Here, O my Lord (Whitlock), Canon M Perham: 3.30 E, Responses (Sanders), Harwood in A flat, Canon R Hanmer: 6.30 NP.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M *& L: 10.30 Euch, Darke in E, Gloria* (Merbecke): 3.30 E, Stanford in C, See what love (Mendelssohn).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 S Euch, Rev P Jones; 6.30 E, The Provost.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 Euch, Canon K Punshon; 11.30 M, Te Deum in C (Stanford), The Lord is my shepherd (How); 5.30 E, Stanford in G, Rev D Murfet.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Responses (Rose), Britten in C: 10.30 S Euch, Sicut cervus (Palestrina), Canon R Lunnon: 3.15 E, View me Lord (Lloyd), Responses (Rose).

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Canon J Davies: 11.30 M, Canon C Day; 3 E, Canon D Slater.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, If ye love me (Tallis), Rawsthorne in C: 6.30 E, Stanford in B flat, Responses *(Morland), Canon C Smith.*

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Euch, Fuga in D minor (Vivaldi/Bach), Fantasia in G minor (Bach), Canon R Royle; 3 E, The Vice-Provost.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 11 M, Stanford in B flat, From the rising of the sun (Ousley); 3.15 E, Holy, Holy, Holy (Schubert), Brewer in D.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Sumsion in F, Therefore we before him bending (Pearsall), Canon R Redrup; 6 E, Responses (Ebdon), Farrant in G minor, The Dean.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 S Euch, Canon G Nairn-Briggs.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, *Missa brevis in F, To thee we sing* (Rachmaninov), Rev P de N Lucas; 11.30 M, Justorum animae (Lasso), 3 E, Noble in B minor, Rev P G Walker.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in B flat, *Canon A Harvey:* 11.15 Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Canon D Hutt; 3 E, Stanford in B flat, Hail gladdening light (Wood), Rev D Reeves; 6.30 ES, Canon A Harvey.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Te deum in B flat (Stanford), Thou will keep *him in perfect peace (S S Wesley); 11.30 S* Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd): 3.30 E, Stanford in A, Zadok the priest (Handel), Rev A K Walker.

YORK MINSTER: 8 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly): 11.30 M, Te Deum (Tallis), *Jubilate in B flat (Stanford); 4 E, Stanford in* A, I was glad (Sowerby), Rev P Hamilton.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Festival Eucharist (Rawsthorne), Ave verum corpus (Mozart); 3.30 EP.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; *10 S Euch,* Messe Solenelle (Langlais), O Sacrum Convivium (Messiaen); 11.30 Ch M, Responses (Futcher), Stanford in C; 3.30 Ch E, Responses (Leighton), Dyson in D.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 MS; 10 MS, Missa brevis in D (Mozart); 11.30 MS, The Call (Tavener), The Minister; 8 ES, Rev C G Kenny.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Rev R Frazer; 6 Rev R Frazer.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Bell' Amfitrit' altera (Lassus), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Rev J M Paul; 3.15 E, The Ninth Service (Weelkes), Exaltabo te (Palestrina), Canon M Saward.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev R Bewes; 6.30 Rev R Tice.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa ad libitum (Bournonville), Tantum ergo (Vittoria).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, *SW3: 8 HC; 11* M, Rev D Bond; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev D Bond.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Mr T Fletcher; 6.30 Mr C Swan.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, Rev S Downham; 5 Informal Service, Rev R Thorpe.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, *9, 10; 11 Mass, Missa Assumpta est Maria* (Palestrina), Quae est ista (Ugolini); 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Adoramus te Christie (Lassus).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC, Rev Dr G Barritt; 11 MS, Rev Dr G Barritt.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Rev Dr P Graves.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Boyce in A, Blow in G, Mr H Potts: 6.30 E, Collegium Regale (Howells), O quam gloriosum (Byrd), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M & Euch, Te Deum (Gibbons), Ego flos campi (Clemens), Canon B Christianson: 6.30 Ch E, Responses (Bawden), Sumsion in A, Canon J Robertson.

ST CLEMENT DANES: *11 Ch Euch,* Mass for four voices (Byrd), Like as the hart (Howells), Rev I Thomas.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev J H McIndoe; 6.30 Rev C I MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place, EC1: 9 M; 11 Sung M, Salve Regina (Langlais), Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), Vidi Speciosam (Victoria).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Short Service (Tallis), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Radcliffe), See what love hath the father (Mendelssohn), Rev A Meldrum; 6 E.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev H Valentine; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Gigue Fugue (Bach), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 10.30 S Euch, O salutaris hostia (Nicholson), Rev C Kevill-Davies: 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, O Lord, the maker (Mundy), Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Merbecke, Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11.00 S Euch, Rev R Holloway.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, *WC2:* 8 HC; 9.45 Euch; 11.30 Visitors to London Service; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; 5 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa L'hora passa (Viadana), Fr B Scott; 6 E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, New English Hymnal, Rev S Chrystal; 6 EP.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Quarti toni (Victoria), Ave Maria (Arcadelt), The Rector.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev C Jones.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Tallis), Ista est speciosa (Goudimel), Fr A Kreft.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 Communion, Hear the voice and prayer (Tallis), Thaxted Mass, The Archdeacon; 6.30 E, Preb M McGowan.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, *SW7:* 9 LM; 11 HM, Ave Maria (Elgar), Rev R F Bushau.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, O Jesu meek (Ravenscroft), Bring us, O Lord God (Harris), Rev P Bosher; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: No services during August - college leave.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

He who rules people in justice, who rules in the fear of God, is like the light of morning at sunrise, a morning that is cloudless after rain and makes the grass sparkle. 2 Samuel 23 : 3,4

BIRTHS

ASH - Ms. Christine Stephanie is pleased to announce the arrival of her grandson Jaydon born 26th July 1997 to her daughter Emma Constance at West Middlesex University Hospital.

BECKETT - On August 12th in Norwich, to Boo (née Bothway) and Edward, a son, Thomas George.

CARPENTER - Sally (née Murphy) and Clive are proud and happy to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful son Oliver George on August 7th 1997.

CHARALAMBOUS - On August 12th at The Portland Hospital to Bambos and Nina, a son, Stefanos, a brother for Melis and Ioanna.

COLES - On August 10th, to Tanya (née Stobbs) and Joe, a son, Hector Simon.

COLSON - On August 13th, to Alec and Susan (née Thomas), a son, William Thomas.

CORRIN - On August 1st, to Sarah (née Chuley) and Mark, a beautiful daughter, Ella Marion.

DAVID - On 12th August, at The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, to Sue (née Bryant) and Paul, a lovely daughter Lauren Charlotte.

HADLEY - James Matthew Jonathan, born 5th August 1997, St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, to proud parents John and Amanda and sisters Sarah, Emma and Elizabeth.

HILLYER - On August 10th to Sarah and Christopher, a wonderful son, Thomas Rhys Kendall, a brother for Alexandra.

IRVINE - On July 27th 1997, to Sarah (née McColl) and Nes, a son, Toby John Nes, a brother for Hannah and Timothy.

JUCKES - On August 12th to Jonathan and Diana, a daughter, Katie Anna, a sister for Alice, Rachel and Peter.

KOMATSU - On August 3rd at The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth to Wakako and Tatso, a son, Shinpei Andrew.

LAURIE - Ursula (née Davies) and Andrew are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Duncan John Ransom, on Saturday 9th August.

LIU - On August 12th at The Portland Hospital to Minli and Wengang, a lovely daughter, Jade, a sister for Bolan.

LUGO - On August 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Susana and Alejandro, a daughter, Paulina, their first child.

MAEJIMA - On August 12th at The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth to Masumi and Toshiro, a lovely daughter, Rihoko.

MANNERS - On August 8th 1997 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Josephine (née Hill) and Richard, a son, Harry Edward Alexander.

REHMAN - On August 8th to Manon (née Fawcett) and Alim, a daughter, Astrid Capucine Octavia, a sister *for Iskander, Michaela,* Benedicta, Xavier, St. John, Marcus and Caius.

THACKRAY - On 14th August 1997 in Luxembourg, to Vicki and Guy, a baby girl, Lauren. Live life to the full *Lauren! Much love from* your Godparents, Jill, Colin, Sarah (and Nicki).

THURLOW - On August 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Louise (née Edmondson) and Nicholas, a beautiful daughter, Allegra, a sister for Max and Edward.

WOOD - On 13th August 1997, to Andrew and Sarah (née Tail), a son, Thomas James, a brother for Henry.

ADOPTIONS

MARTIN - Claire Shi Jie, born 8th August 1996 (Year of the Fire Rat), adopted 4th August 1997 at Xiangtan, Hunan Province, China, a daughter for Michael and Pamela.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

CHECKETTS:CASTLE - On the 16th August 1947 at St. Nicholas Church, Tooting, London. Congratulations from all your friends around the world and your loving son, Adrian.

DEATHS

BENOY - Muriel Annie, 91. Formerly a teacher in New Jersey. Born Smethwick, England, died July 31st in North Chatham. The funeral and burial in New Jersey.

FARNHILL - Janet, 88, died peacefully at home in Wilmslow. Beloved wife for 55 years of the late Harold and cherished mother of Ruth. No flowers please. Donations if wished to Age Concern, 67B Chester Road, Castle, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1HG.

FISHER - *Jessie Miller (Jenny)* (née Cole), on August 13th peacefully in Minehead, aged 86. Widow of Norman, much loved mother of Roger, William and Guy and grandmother of John, Lucy and Edward. Funeral Service at Taunton Crematorium on Friday August 22nd at 3pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Leukaemia Research Fund via Hawkes & Sons, Funeral Directors, Irnham Road, Minehead, Somerset.

GILLAN - Georgie (Laura) died suddenly at home in Wolverhampton, in her sleep on August 10th 1997, aged 70 years. Lovingly remembered by her son Duncan, daughter Rosemary and grandchildren Samantha, Louise and Jason. Funeral Service at Gornal Wood Crematorium, Thursday August 21st at 12 noon. Donations in lieu of flowers to the N.S.P.C.C. and all enquiries to Jennings Funeral Directors Horseley Field, Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 352251.

GORDON - James G. of Terrington, Yorkshire. Peacefully on August 13th at Purey Cust Hospital, York, aged 82. Much loved husband of Ann, father of Suzie, Richard, Tisha and James. He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends. A Thanksgiving Service for his life will be held on Monday August 18th at 11.30 am at All Saints Church, Terrington, York. No flowers.

GREENE - Joan Winifred (née Dobbyn), late of St Leonards on Sea, died peacefully on August 12th, aged 81. Funeral on Friday 22nd August, 1.30pm at Hastings Crematorium. Flowers, or donations to RUKBA c/o Mummery, 31 Devonshire Rd, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex. 01424 730418.

HAMILTON - Cathy. Beloved daughter of Mal, sister of Mary, Joan and Ted, husband of Eamonn and mother of Victoria and Eamonn. Died peacefully at Rawdon Lodge August 13th 1997. The funeral will be held at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Yeadon, Leeds on August 22nd at 11.00am.

HAWKINS - Captain Richard (Dick), late Coldstream Guards, in his 75th year, of Everdon Hall, Everdon, near Daventry. Peacefully on the 13th August, after a long illness borne with great courage. Beloved husband of Anne and loving father to Tony and Anne, grandfather to Nathan, Martin, Daniel, Edward and Henry. He will be remembered for his unfailing courtesy and zest for living. Funeral Service will take place at St. Mary's Church, Everdon on Friday, 22nd August at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations for The Injured Jockeys Fund, the Macmillan Nurses and Hunt Servants Benevolent Fund should be sent to John White Funeral Directors 188/190 Watling St East, Towcester, Northants, NN12 6DB. Tel: 01327 359266.

LUCAS - Jack, peacefully at home on 14th August 1997, aged 66. Dear husband of Margaret, father to Mark and James, father-in-law of Diane and Lizanda, proud Grandfather of Matthew, Emma and little Jack, brother to Joan. A struggle with cancer fought with courage and stoicism. Funeral Service 11.30 a.m. Wednesday, August 27th at St. Mark's Church, Church Road, Purley, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only: donations if desired to Dr. David Cunningham Cancer Research Fund, c/o The Royal Marsden Hospital, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PT or to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Harestone Drive, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6YQ.

LEEDHAM-GREEN - Passed away on 14th August 1997, Isabel Daniel Leedham-Green, wife of the late Hugh Lascelles Leedham-Green. In lieu of flowers donations please to SPANA of 15 Buckingham Gate, London.

PARIS - Frances Mary (née Bliss), died August 13th 1997, at the age of 83 after a gallant struggle with her family beside her at Lymington Hospital. Beloved wife of George (late Colonel *R.E.M.E.*) and devoted mother of Robin and Elizabeth and adored grannie to Oliver and loving mother-in-law to Chris. Will be very sadly missed by all her family and friends, whose hearts she touched, and of course William. Cremation at Bournemouth Crematorium, August 20th at 10.45 a.m. followed by Thanksgiving Service at 12.00 noon at St. Lukes Church, Sway, Hampshire. Flowers to home address. Donations, if desired, to R.E.M.E. Benevolent Fund c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, SO41 9DN.

PINKNEY - Renny Bourdas. On Thursday August 14th 1997, after a short illness. Aged 91 years. Dearly loved husband of the late Sylvia Pinkney, beloved father of Graham and Jane, grandfather and great grandfather. Cremation service, family only, followed by memorial service at St John's United Reformed Church, Northwood on August 21st at 12.00 noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to The British Sailor's Society c/o E. Spark Ltd., 104 Pinner Road, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 1BS.

TOMLINSON - Peter (Squadron Leader Bomber Command & 3 Photographic Reconnaissance Unit R.A.F. Benson. P.O.W. Stalag Luft 3 Sept 1941 having force landed due to engine failure in unarmed Spitfire.) On August 3rd at his home in Cape Town. Dearly beloved brother of David, Paul, deceased brother Michael and devoted Uncle and Godfather to many.

WRAGG - Fritha Jean, peacefully after a long illness bravely borne, on August 14th, at Oakhaven Hospice, aged 42. Beloved mother of Amy and wife of Chris. A very special person who will be sadly missed but happily remembered by her army of friends. Family service at Bournemouth Crematorium at 11.30am on Wednesday August 20th, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at St Thomas' Church, Lymington, Hampshire at 3pm. Donations, if desired, for Oakhaven Hospice or Wessex Cancer Trust c/o F.W. House & Sons, 33-34 St Thomas Street, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9NE. Tel: (01590) 673142.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

GOULD - Joe. 16.8.80 - 4.2.97. Our beloved son, brother and friend. Today, and every day, we remember your life not your death. We all miss you so much but you live in our hearts forever. Mummy.

JOHANN - Albert. Companion over many years, always in our thoughts.

BIRTHDAYS

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OBITUARIES

GERARD JABOULET

Gérard Jaboulet, French wine producer, died of a pulmonary embolism on July 26 aged 55. He was born on June 2, 1942.

Gérard Jaboulet was a tireless and effective ambassador for the wines of the Rhône Valley. The old-established family firm of which he was head, Paul Jaboulet Aîné, makes and markets a range covering almost every appellation in the northern and southern Rhône. Widely distributed around the world, Jaboulet wines are never less than dependable, from their generic Côtes du Rhône to their finest Hermitage. The best of them, above all the red Hermitage La Chapelle, can be ranked among the great wines of the world.

Some 60-65 per cent of Jaboulet's annual production — about 1.8 million bottles — is sold abroad, most of it in Britain, Ireland, America and Switzerland. Travelling the world in a round of tastings, presentations and customer visits that kept him from home for half the year, Gérard Jaboulet did much to promote the reputation not only of his own firm's bottlings, but of all the wines of a long-undervalued region.

Gérard Jaboulet was born in Tournon, just across the river from Tain l'Hermitage, the busy capital of the northern Rhône wine trade. After studying business and viticulture at Montpellier University, he did military service and spent some time in Germany before joining the family business in 1969. In 1976 he took over as Président Directeur Général from his father Louis (who at 85 remains actively involved in the business to this day).

The house of Jaboulet was established at Tain l'Hermitage in 1834. Wine had been made in and around the town since at least the time of the Romans, and in the 18th and 19th centuries those wines were highly prized, with Fielding, Scott and Dumas *père* among the writers to mention them approvingly in their works. As well as being appreciated in their own right, the robust wines of the Rhône were for many years also widely used to lend body and longevity to the finest wines of Bordeaux, with the makers of first-growth clarets proud to describe their wares as *hermitagé*.

In the 20th century, however, and especially after the First World War, the steep, terraced, labour-intensive vineyards of Hermitage and its neighbours fell for a while into some neglect, and it was only in the 1960s, thanks in no small part to the efforts of Louis Jaboulet, that the wines began to regain something of the following they had formerly enjoyed. Leaving the day-to-day business of winemaking in the hands first of his brother Jacques and then of his cousins Philippe and Michel, Gérard Jaboulet continued his father's efforts to restore the best wines of the Rhône to their rightful place among the most highly prized wines of the world.

Supported by other committed producers, such as his great friend and rival Gérard Chave, and helped in the 1970s and 1980s by some enthusiastic foreign wine writers and merchants, Jaboulet's efforts succeeded — perhaps all too well. The wines of the Rhône are no longer quite the bargains they once were. Several growers (though not Jaboulet) now market luxury special cuvées of Côte Rôtie, Hermitage or Châteauneuf du Pape, in tiny quantities at far from tiny prices. Today not even the lowliest of the region's appellations is spared the annual speculative circus of *en primeur* sales, with customers paying money up front to secure stocks of wines that may not yet have been bottled or in some cases even blended.

Jaboulet's wines remain good value, however — a fact which, when combined with Gérard Jaboulet's infectious enthusiasm for his products, explains why they figure on so many lists around the world. As a *négociant*, the house of Jaboulet buys in young wines (rather than grapes) from a number of carefully selected small suppliers and uses them to make a reliable own-label range that has among its highlights a far from basic Côtes du Rhône called Parallèle 45; a robust, long-lived Village Cornas; and a solid, correct Châteauneuf du Pape, Les Cèdres.

The real glories of the Jaboulet range, however, are the wines made from grapes the company grows itself. The family now owns vineyards in all the appellations of the northern Rhône except Côte Rôtie and the comparatively insignificant St Péray. Under Gérard Jaboulet, a process of careful expansion was pursued that in recent years has seen the purchase of new domaines at Cornas, where the first Jaboulet vintage from the three-hectare Domaine St Pierre was produced in 1994, and at Crozes-Hermitage, where the 50 to 80-year-old vines of the Domaine Raymond Roure were purchased last year with the aim of making wines to rival one of Jaboulet's best, the outstanding Domaine de Thalabert from the same appellation.

The Domaine de Thalabert, source of one of the best-value red wines in the world, was itself expanded by Gérard Jaboulet's purchase of an adjacent vineyard. He was particularly proud of the results achieved there, in the less exalted appellation of Crozes-Hermitage, once describing the Thalabert as "our little baby, because it is much more problematical to produce really good wine from these vineyards than from Hermitage itself". Extra vineyards were also acquired in Hermitage, home of Jaboulet's finest wines, the white Chevalier de Stérimberg and the red La Chapelle.

The Stérimberg is a complex, long-lived blend of the region's traditional white wine grapes, Roussanne and Marsanne, and is named after the holy knight who is said to have built the chapel on the Hermitage hillside on his return from a crusade in 1244. The La Chapelle, pure Syrah, from a number of favoured sites on the hill, is named after the tiny chapel (owned by Jaboulet) that still dominates the vineyards. Barely approachable at ten years, firm and rich at twenty, and with the power in great vintages to last thirty years or more, it is a wine that can hold its own against the best of Burgundy or Bordeaux (which still generally cost twice as much).

Even with wines such as La Chapelle to their credit, the French can no longer afford to be complacent about the superiority of their wines to those of other countries. Gérard Jaboulet, however, was unusual in being a positive enthusiast for good wines from all over the world. His ambassadorial travels on behalf of the Rhône involved a two-way process. He tasted and learnt wherever he went. He loved North America, for instance, and had great respect for its best wines; he thought Spain had enormous potential for making fine wine; but he was just as well informed about the latest viticultural developments in Mexico or China.

Gérard Jaboulet was an urbane and cultured man, whose recreations included shooting and fly-fishing in Britain and Ireland. He spoke excellent English (albeit with a strong Gallic accent), having acquired the rudiments of the language during two months spent at what he said was "a very bad school in Clapham".

He is survived by his wife, Odile, whom he married in 1969, and by their three daughters.

GORDON LEGG

Gordon Legg, missionary to Portuguese East Africa and General Director of the Africa Evangelical Fellowship, died yesterday aged 85. He was born on January 12, 1912.

GORDON LEGG emerged from the London Underground each weekday morning in the early 1930s, striding down Oxford Street to D. H. Evans, where he worked in the men's outfitting department. In 1937 he gave up his job with a view to becoming a missionary in Mozambique or what was known then as Portuguese East Africa.

His first move was to Upper Norwood in order to join the forbiddingly named Missionary Training Colony set up there by Captain Godfrey Buxton, who had won a Military Cross in the First World War. Buxton believed in the hardy, rugged virtues. The colony comprised half a dozen army huts in a field, in which some thirty or forty young men slept dormitory-style.

It was no picnic. Hard exercise at 6am was followed by a cold bath whatever the weather — "a Russian bath", as the prospective missionaries called it with feeling (by which they meant "rush in and rush out"). More practically, Legg learnt shoe-mending and road-mending as well as carpentry and haircutting. He also spent ten weeks at Croydon General Hospital, cramming in as wide a range of medical skills as he could.

Henry Gordon Legg was born in Derby, the second son of a railway clerk, and was educated at Bemrose Secondary School and at the city's School of Commerce. At 15 he was apprenticed to a local clothier as a salesman, a career for which his courteous manner well qualified him.

At the age of 20 he joined D. H. Evans in London, rising to the position of first salesman before applying to the South Africa General Mission (now the Africa Evangelical Fellowship). After a brief spell at Coimbra University in Portugal, for further training in language and culture, he sailed for Africa in February 1939 aboard *RMS Warwick Castle*.

Legg was soon to learn about Africa the hard way. He narrowly escaped being mauled by a man-eating lion, saving himself only through his skill with a gun. And his first wife died of cerebral malaria in 1944 after only two years of marriage.

Stationed at Mihecani in the Zambesia province of Mozambique, Legg built up a school of more than 600 pupils, together with a clinic and dispensary which was run by his second wife, Katie, a Welsh nurse whom he met in Rusitu, Zimbabwe. While on furlough in Britain in 1960, news reached them that a schizophrenic man had murdered a child in the clinic, and they rushed back immediately. But this ugly incident was still to lead to their expulsion.

Portuguese Roman Catholic priests had long resented the presence of a Protestant mission, and they used the murder to bring pressure on the Government to close the enterprise down. Legg received a visit from a government official giving him 24 hours' notice to disband a school of 600 pupils, a medical clinic, and a combined staff of more than 30. Gracious hospitality had always been one of Legg's hallmarks and the official and his assistant were invited to stay to lunch once they had delivered their ultimatum.

The international headquarters of the Africa Evangelical Fellowship was then in Johannesburg, and Legg was asked to move there as assistant general director in 1961, becoming general director in 1969. He developed an extensive ministry among the thousands of workers who migrated to the goldmines, stretching in a crescent for over a hundred miles from Johannesburg to Klerksdorp.

The migrant workers arrived at a rate of a thousand a week from half a dozen different countries. Meals were dished out regularly and medical attention was good. But lack of family life and the sheer alienation of this existence for men from the bush often gave rise to inter-tribal animosity and violence.

In an era scarred by the doctrine of apartheid, the integrity and equality of Legg's relationships with Africans stood out. All his dealings with black people were characterised by good manners and consideration. This evidently left its mark — and not only in and around Johannesburg. When, having retired in 1981, he returned to Mozambique in 1982 after more than 20 years' absence, he was welcomed back by Christian and civic leaders alike. The intervening years had seen the seeds he had planted blossom and flourish, and the Church had grown to ten times the size it had been when he was forced to leave in 1960.

Gordon Legg is survived by his second wife Katie Allen, whom he married in 1949. There were no children.

HUBERT LANSLEY

Hubert Lansley, founder and editor of *Meccano Engineer*, died on August 7 aged 89. He was born on September 25, 1907.

Lansley stitching an issue of *Meccano Engineer*

ALTHOUGH he has his niche in the history of technical publishing for his audacity in founding *Meccano Engineer*, Hubert Lansley is best known for the contributions he made to *Meccano Magazine* in the heyday of that celebrated monthly. But it was his own, home-grown, hand-stitched publication which, in 1923, earned him a summons to the offices of the editor of *Meccano Magazine*, the redoubtable Ellison Hawks; both to receive a rebuke for daring to appropriate the Meccano name for the title of his journal, and at the same time to be offered employment as a columnist.

From then until 1930 he contributed most of the Meccano content of the magazine (which also carried features on other technical subjects) under the byline "Spanner". He also ghosted a column for Frank Hornby, the inventor of Meccano and Hornby trains. From 1930 until the outbreak of war in 1939 Lansley ran a shop selling Meccano and Hornby trains in Muswell Hill, London, and in the postwar period he acquired an employment agency. But *Meccano Magazine* continued to be published until 1981, though by that time its circulation was down from its 1930s peak of 96,000.

Hubert Henry Lansley was born at Barnet, seven years after a Liverpudlian named Frank Hornby had founded "*Mechanics Made Easy*", later to be renamed by George Jones in its famous reincarnation, Meccano. Given a Meccano set for his fifth birthday, Lansley soon became a devotee, bolting together his own versions of cars, lorries and trains drawn from his fertile brain. With the impetus provided by the First World War, he soon added to these tanks, artillery pieces, ships and aircraft, many of a degree of elaboration doubtless undreamt of by the participating combatants and their various war ministries.

At school he tried to interest his fellows in Meccano by publishing a magazine, which he wrote himself. But he was disconcerted to find that his schoolmates were more interested in stamp collecting than Meccano, and so was compelled to call his innovatory publication *Stamp Collectors' Monthly*. Needless to say, this philatelic journal contained some editorial matter on Meccano.

But by 1921 the balance of power in the magazine between philately and Meccano had altered. Acquiring a duplicator, Lansley was able to publish a 12-page issue under the title *Meccano Engineer*, in which the stamp collecting interest was relegated to a single page. By the time the magazine reached its eighth issue its circulation was well over a thousand, but it had come to the attention of the Meccano firm's own publication, whose editor decided that this upstart rival must be terminated, while admiring the talents and initiative of its founder/editor.

Offered a job by Ellison Hawks, Lansley was told that issue No 9 must be *Meccano Engineer*'s last, and had to bring to an abrupt end a favourite serial he had been writing about a futuristic aeroplane. From 1924 until 1930, at the firm's Liverpool headquarters, Lansley experimented with models and wrote most of the Meccano input of *Meccano Magazine*, which also contained general interest stories for boys, cartoons and articles on technical inventions. It was a highly sophisticated journal and its coverage of aviation developments, in particular, was considered second to none in its day.

In 1930 Lansley decided to go into business himself and, until the demands of war required all steel production to be taken up for military purposes, was happy selling Meccano products in Muswell Hill. Too old for call-up, he served in the Home Guard during the war.

In the 1950s his work took a completely different course when he acquired an old-established City employment agency, Phillips Staff Bureau. As a member, also, of the Institute of Employment Consultants he often found himself in conflict with trade unionists and left-wing Labour MPs who wanted to outlaw all but state employment agencies, but this was resisted. As a member of the executive of the Federation of Personnel Services, he was able to make significant contributions to the Employment Agencies Act of 1973.

These preoccupations had taken him away from the world of Meccano, but in retirement in the 1970s his interest was rekindled through a meeting with Bert Love, head of the Midlands Meccano Guild. In 1994 his memoir *My Meccano Days* was published by *Constructor's Quarterly*.

Lansley's wife Violet died in 1993. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

DEREK SMITH

Derek Smith, founder of the Village Retail Services Association, died from a brain tumour on August 5 aged 65. He was born on April 2, 1932.

THE Village Retail Services Association is the charity which helps small rural communities to retain or reinstate their village shops and post offices. Derek Smith, its prime mover, was a farmer for most of his life. When he moved, after 30 years in Hampshire, to Sydney Farm at Halstock (population 350) in west Dorset there was a village shop (with post office), but when this closed rather abruptly in 1991, the villagers found themselves without an amenity they had taken for granted.

With determination, imagination and great good humour Smith brought some sixty local people together, and kept them together, to provide the capital needed to acquire new premises to set up a shop, with community post office attached. At first the shop was run by a volunteer, but subsequently it was let at an affordable rent.

The fundamental problems he faced, in addition to the growth of out-of-town supermarkets, were the greatly increased values of rural freehold premises and the dearth of any for renting. When in August 1991 *The Times* published a story about the closure of village shops and a leader entitled "The Megastore Menace", Smith at once wrote a letter describing the Halstock experience, and found himself deluged by letters from villagers all over the country.

More than 100,000 village shops had closed in the previous 30 years, and many rural communities wanted to know what they could do to protect those that were left, or how to set up new ones. Smith prepared a report on the subject for the Rural Development Commission, finding during its compilation that there was no national organisation focusing on the problem.

The result was the formation, in 1992, of the Village Retail Services Association, which Smith set up in offices at Sydney Farm. It has the single objective of helping villages to retain their shops and post offices, building up a fund of knowledge, sharing experience and developing several model systems which could be tailored to various circumstances. The association recently became a registered charity, and since its foundation it has been involved with more than 300 villages, helping to set up more than 25 village-backed shops and post offices.

The establishment of the association marked a considerable change of direction for Smith, although old friends had always recognised the quixotic and unconventional elements in his make-up, which influenced even his farming.

Derek Campbell Smith was educated at Marlborough and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he switched from agriculture to English. This was not popular at Corpus in those days, the college's view being that English was more suitable for private leisure than for academic study. However, without deviating from his wish to be a farmer, Smith overcame the objections, and celebrated by setting off with a friend (without a donkey) to follow in Robert Louis Stevenson's footsteps through the Cevennes.

His first job in agriculture was as farm manager on the Timsbury Manor estate near Romsey in Hampshire, where he had great difficulty in waking up in time to do the milking. With typical ingenuity he sought to solve the problem by putting alarm clocks inside saucepans. The reverberating din, however, woke everyone but him.

When Smith subsequently bought Timsbury Manor, he farmed it both conventionally and adventurously, experimenting with a variety of ideas, even one year trying horseradish as a main crop. On another occasion he travelled to Wales intending to buy cattle and returned instead as the owner of a hotel in Lampeter.

Throughout his life Smith came up with the unexpected. Having established himself and his family in Timsbury, he suddenly decided to give up full-time farming and retire to Halstock, where, among other ventures, he acquired a group of old battery hen-houses and turned them into rural workshops. It was here that he met his last challenge of setting up the Village Retail Services Association, which continued to preoccupy him even after he was afflicted, two years ago, with the brain tumour that eventually killed him.

He is survived by his wife Alison, whom he married in 1957, and by two sons and a daughter, another son having died in 1986.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

East Queenie Florence of 14 Hornbeam Close Worlingham Beccles, Suffolk, died on 24 July 1997. Particulars to Serjeant & Sheppard Solicitor(s) of 150 Friar Street Reading Berkshire RG1 1HE before 21st November 1997.

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Randall Harris Solicitors
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Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1AQ

SWINDELLS, DAVID WORSLEY of Oak House, Woodside, Frilford Heath, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX13 5QG died on 17 March 1996 particulars to COUTTS & CO, TRUSTEE DEPARTMENT of 440 STRAND, LONDON WC2R 0QS before 17 October 1997

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ON THIS DAY

August 16, 1900

In June 1900 the secret society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists (Boxers) besieged the foreign legations in Peking and attacked Westerners throughout the region. By the end of August an international force had suppressed the rising.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

BRITISH TROOPS AT SHANGHAI.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SHANGHAI, AUG. 13.

As the result of intrigues here and at Nanking, combined with an intimation that the presence of a British force at Shanghai would be followed by that of French troops, the Viceroy Liu Kunyi telegraphed on Friday to the British Government asking that the landing of the force should be countermanded. Subsequently, in an interview with the British Consul, the Viceroy expressed his entire willingness that British troops should protect Shanghai as arranged, provided that this did not entail the presence of other forces. The position amounts to this. The Viceroy, who has hitherto preserved friendly relations with all the Powers, while admitting the necessity of precautionary measures at Shanghai, desires to avoid an international occupation — a perfectly reasonable attitude.

To-day, despite the fact that the Viceroy had thus withdrawn his opposition, and though the Taotai had issued a public proclamation giving notice of the friendly co-operation of British troops, whose arrival is expected to-night, instructions from the British Government have been received that the disembarcation is to await further orders.

The matter having reached the present stage, it is evident that any failure to fulfil intentions which have been clearly intimated would be equivalent to a repetition in an aggravated form of the humiliation caused by the Port Arthur incident. Such vacillation would have a disastrous effect on the prestige of Great Britain in the Yang-tsze Provinces and would inflict irreparable injury.

AUGUST 14, 9.35 P.M.

Three transports are now moored in the river awaiting orders to disembark. The fact is generally known that the British Government is hesitating. Public opinion, official and unofficial, is unanimous that withdrawal at this stage would be deplorable and would inevitably produce the worst results. This view is expressed by the foreign Consuls and the leading Chinese merchants.

General Croagh to-day discussed the situation with Admiral Seymour, the Consul-General, and the Viceroy's deputy. The latter suggested that the landing, if it should be necessary, should be effected gradually. Meanwhile the effect of the anticipated protection is markedly shown by the return to the settlement of large numbers of natives.

PROGRESS OF THE ADVANCE.

We are informed by the Admiralty that Rear-Admiral Bruce, telegraphing from Taku, reports that he has received the following telegrams from the General at Ho-si-wu:-

August 10.

Troops distant from Peking about 27 miles experienced but little opposition. Position had been prepared by the enemy, but as the allies advanced they fled.

The Tartar Cavalry was charged by two squadrons of the Bengal Lancers, and many of the former were killed, and the standards of Generals Ma and Sung were captured.

August 11.

The advance may be somewhat delayed as rain is falling . . .

DEGREE COURSE VACANCIES: ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

DEGREE vacancies in engineering, technology and science are published here for students chasing courses still available at universities and colleges this autumn.

The listings have been fully updated since they first appeared in *The Times* on Thursday, taking account of those which have been filled but also many unexpected vacancies just announced.

Vacancies declared in the past 24 hours include human biology, zoology and ecology at Leeds, food and human nutrition at Newcastle, marine and environmental biology at St Andrews and chemistry at Nottingham.

The Times features a 14-page supplement on Monday with a completely updated list of all degree vacancies.

* Courses are part of modular schemes, in a variety of combinations. All other courses are identified by codes used in the Ucas handbook.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE HOTLINE NUMBERS FOR CLEARING

Aberdeen Uni	01224 273 504
Abertay Uni	01382 308 080
Anglia Uni	01223 363 271
Aston Uni	0121 359 3611
Bangor Normal Col	01248 382 660
Barnsley Col	01226 730 191
Bath Col	01225 875 875
Birmingham Uni	0121 414 3344
B'ham Col of Food & Tourism	0121 604 1040
Bishop Grosseteste Col	01522 527 347x284
Blackpool & Fylde Col	01253 352 352
Bolton Institute	01204 903 903
Bournemouth Uni	01202 524 111
Bradford Uni	01274 385 400
Bradford & Ilkley College	0800 833194
Bretton Hall	01924 832 017
Brighton Uni	01273 600 900
British Inst in Paris	*0171 636 8000*
Brunel Uni	01895 203 192
Buckingham Uni	01280 820 299
Buckinghamshire Col	0800 056 5660
Canterbury Christ Church Col	01227 767 700
Central England Uni	0121 331 6777
Central Lancashire Uni	*01772 201 201*
Central Sch Speech & Drama	0171 722 8183
Cheltenham & Gloucester Col	01242 532 825
Chester Col	01244 375 444
Chichester Inst	01243 816 001
City Uni	0171 477 8877
Colchester Inst	*01206 718 000*
Coventry Uni	01203 838 181
Cranfield Uni RMCS (Silsoe)	01525 863 315
Cranfield Uni RMCS (Shriv'ham)	01793 785 400
Croydon Col	0181 760 5801
Dartington Col	01803 861 620
De Montfort Uni	*0645 454 647*
Derby Uni	01332 621 300
Dundee Uni	01382 345 464
Durham Uni	01642 335 021
East Anglia Uni	01603 592 216
East London Uni	0181 849 3443
Edge Hill Uni Col	01695 584 584
Essex Uni	01206 873 666
European Business School	0171 487 7507
Exeter Uni	01392 263 035
Glamorgan Uni	0800 716 925
Glasgow Uni	0141 330 4912
Glasgow Caledonian Uni	0141 331 3138
Goldsmiths Col, London	0171 919 7500
Grantham Col	01476 400 200
Greenwich Uni	0800 005 006
Grimsby Col	0800 315 002
Gyosei Int Col	0118 931 0152
Halton Col	0151 495 3315
Harper Adams Col	01952 815 000
Herefordshire Col	01432 352 235
Herefordshire Col	01432 352 235
Heriot-Watt Uni	0131 451 3376
Hertfordshire Uni	01707 284 848
Heythrop Col	0171 795 6600
Holburn Law Col	0171 385 3377
Huddersfield Uni	01484 472 777
Hull Uni	0870 122 244
Imperial Col, London	0171 589 5111
Keele Uni	01782 584 003
Kent Uni	01227 827 272
Kidderminster Col	01562 820 811
King Alfred's Winchester	01962 827 262
King's Col London	0171 836 5454
Kingston Uni	0181 547 7575
Lancaster Uni	01524 592 026
Leeds Uni	0113 233 3999
Leeds Trinity & All Saints	0113 283 7123
Leeds Met Uni	0113 283 3113
Leicester Uni	*0116 252 5281*
Lincolnshire & Humberside Uni	01482 463 950
Liverpool Uni	0151 794 6800
Liverpool Hope Uni Col	0151 291 3295
Liverpool Inst Performing Arts	0151 330 3232
Liverpool John Moores	0500 564 565
London Guildhall Uni	0171 320 1111
London Inst	0171 514 6000
Loughborough	01509 222 498
LSU Southampton	01703 216 200
Luton Uni	01582 728 554
Manchester Uni	0161 275 2077
Manchester Met Uni	0161 247 2966
Matthew Boulton Col	0121 446 4545
Middlesex Uni	0181 362 6565
Moray Inst	0990 100 809
Napier Uni	0131 455 4330
Nene Col	01604 735 500
Newcastle Uni	*0345 887 722*
Newman Col	0121 476 1181
North East Surrey Col	0181 394 3300
Northern Col	01224 238 595
North East Wales Inst	01978 290 666
North London Uni	0171 753 3355
Northumbria Uni	*0191 227 4777*
Norwich City Col	01603 773 344
Nottingham	0115 951 5752
Nottingham Trent Uni	0115 941 8418
Oxford Brookes Uni	01865 483 040
Paisley Uni	0990 403020
Peterborough Regional College	01733 673 66
Plymouth Uni	01752 233400
Portsmouth Uni	01705 876 543
Queen Margaret Col	0131 317 3399
Queen Mary & Westfield	0171 975 5511
Queen's Uni of Belfast	01232 273 079
Reading College	0118 967 5052
Reading Uni	0118 987 5123
Ripon & York St John	01904 616 980
Robert Gordon Uni	01224 262 105
Roehampton Inst	0181 392 3000
Rose Bruford Col	0181 308 2611
Royal Agricultural Col	01285 652 531
Royal Holloway, London	01784 443 882
Salford Uni	0161 295 5555
Salisbury Col	01722 323 711
Scarborough Uni Col	0800 216 124
Sheffield Uni	0114 222 2000
Sheffield Hallam Uni	0114 272 0911
Southampton Inst	0800 847 800
Southampton Uni	01703 595959
South Bank Uni	0171 815 8158
St Andrews Col, Glasgow	01334 462 150
St Andrews Uni	01334 462 020
St Mark & St John Col	01752 636 848
St Marys Uni Col	0181 240 4225
Staffordshire Uni	0800 590 830
Stirling Uni	01786 466 166
Stockport Col	0161 958 3412
Strathclyde	0141 548 2813
Suffolk Col	01473 296 692
Sunderland Uni	0191 515 3000
Surrey Uni	0800 980 3200
Surrey Inst	*01252 732 232*
Sussex Uni	01273 678 416
Sutton Coldfield Col	0121 356 5671
Swansea Inst	0800 731 0884
Teesside Uni	01642 218 121
Thames Valley Uni	0181 579 5000
Trinity Col, Carmarthen	01267 676 733
Ulster Uni	01265 324 941
UMIST	0161 200 4499
Uni Col London (UCL)	0171 380 7365
Uni Col, St Martin	0800 731 7331
Uni Col, Warrington	01925 494 494
UWIC	01222 506 050
Warwick Uni	01203 533 544
West Herts Col	01923 812 565
Westhill Col	0121 415 2251
West of England Uni	0117 965 6261
Westminster Col, Oxford	01865 793 876
Westminster Uni	0171 911 5000
Wolverhampton Uni	01902 323 232
Worcester Col	01905 855 111
Wye Col, London	01233 812 401
Writtle Col	01245 420 705
York Uni	01904 433 020

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

Aberystwyth	01970 621 997
Bangor	01248 382 660
Cardiff	01222 874 412
Newport	01633 430 088
Lampeter	01570 423 530
Swansea	01792 295 097

AERONAUTICS

City, H400, H401, H405, H403, H422, H420, H402, H423, H424
Coventry, H400
Cranfield, H420
Hertfordshire, H420, H421, H428, H430, H438
Kingston, H423, H424
Liverpool, H425, H421, H420
Manchester, H400, H401, H402
North East Wales Inst, HH43
Queen Mary Westfield Col, H421, J5H4, H420, H425
Queen's, H400
Salford, H400, H420
Southampton, H406, H420
Stockport Col, H400
Swansea Inst, KW12
West of England, H420, H421, 004H
York, H640

ANIMATION

North East Wales Inst, W270, WH25, W216

ARCHITECTURE/ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN/ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES

Anglia, K236
Brighton, K100
Central England, K100, K300
Coventry, K236, K237
De Montfort, K100, KK14
Derby, K101
Dundee, K100
Glasgow, J620, J625, J627
Glasgow Caledonian, K236
Greenwich, K100, K300
Heriot-Watt, K300E
Huddersfield, K100, K236
Kingston, K100
Leeds, H340
Leeds Metropolitan, K300
Lincolnshire & Humberside, K100, K236
Liverpool John Moores, K100
Luton, K100, K236
Manchester Metropolitan, K300
Napier, K236
Nene Col, K210
Newcastle, *J620, J621, J610, J611*
North East Wales Inst, K100
North London, K100
Northumbria, KK14, KK12
Nottingham Trent, K101
Plymouth, K101, K100
Portsmouth, K100
Queen's, K236
Robert Gordon, K236, K100, K1T2, K1W2
Sheffield Hallam, K230
Southampton Inst, K236
South Bank, K235, K100, K108
Teesside, W235
Westminster, K236
West of England, KK14

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Birmingham, GG58
Derby, G801
Luton, G800
Sussex, G800, G8T2
UMIST, G800
Westminster, G800

ASTRONOMY

Aberystwyth, FF65
Glasgow Caledonian, FG51
Hertfordshire, F5F6, F5F3, F5F9, F5N2, *
Newcastle, F520, F521
Queen Mary Westfield Col, F500, FG51

ASTROPHYSICS

Hertfordshire, F501, F521, F522, F528, F523
Keele, CF75*
Liverpool John Moores, F520, F521
Queen Mary Westfield Col, F526
Royal Holloway Col, F520

AUTOMATED MANUFACTURE

Central England, H340, H348
Hertfordshire, H340, H348
Sunderland, H340, H348

AUTOMATED SYSTEMS

Bolton Inst, H348, H340, H341, H343, HH7J, HH73, HH7H, *
Heriot-Watt, *G700*
Kingston, H340, H341
Sunderland, HH36

AVIONICS

Glasgow, HHL6
Lincolnshire & Humberside, H400, HH46
Queen Mary Westfield Col, HH45

BIOCHEMISTRY/BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCES

Aberdeen, C700, C7C9, C7C3, CC75
Aberystwyth, C700
Bangor, C700, C650, CF71, CC17
Birmingham, C700, C720, C7C6, C7J8
Bradford, C760
Brunel, C712, C710, C711
Coventry, *C700, C7T2*
Dundee, C700, BC27, CB71
East London, C700
Essex, C700, C720, C721, CC78
Glasgow, C700, C701
Greenwich, C700, C701
Heriot-Watt, C700, F1C7
Huddersfield, C700
Keele, *CF7C**
Kent, C700, *
Kingston, C700
Lancaster, C700
Leicester, C700
Liverpool John Moores, CC7M, C710, CC75
*Luton, CN71**
Newcastle, *C700*
North East Surrey Col, C700, C708
North London, C700, *
Northumbria, BF11
Nottingham Trent, CC57
Portsmouth, C700
Queen Mary Westfield Col, C700, C7C5
Queen's, C700
Reading, J800, C700
Royal Holloway, C720, CJ78, C700, C7NC, C7C5
Salford, C700, C100, C102
South Bank, FC17, LC17, FC37, CF78, V700, C700
Southampton, C700
Staffordshire, CC6R, CC75
St Andrews, *
Stirling, C700, CX77
Stockport Col, C700
Surrey, C700, C720, C706
Sussex, C700, C706, C7R1, C7R2, C7R4, C7N1, C7C1
Swansea, C700, C701, C7R3
West of England, CC76, C980
Westminster, BC17, CC75
Wolverhampton, Y401, C700, C7D4, C7C6, F120
Wye Col, C700

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES/TECHNOLOGY

Abertay, C9C2
Aberdeen, B940, B9C6, B9B2, B9B1
Anglia, *
Birmingham, BJ95
Bradford, B940
Brighton, B940
De Montfort, B940, FB19, X7BX, B9N1, 7XBX
Durham, B940
East London, B940,
Glasgow, B940
Glasgow Caledonian, B940
Greenwich, B940
Hull, B940
Keele, C930
Kingston, B930
Liverpool John Moores, B940, B948
Manchester, J2B9, J2BX
Napier, B940
North East Surrey Col, B940, B948
North London, B940
Northumbria, BF11
Nottingham Trent, B940
Paisley, B940
Portsmouth, B940
Queen Mary Westfield Col, J501
Queen's, B940
Southampton, B940
Staffordshire, B940
Sunderland, B940
UMIST, J2B9, J2BX, J2BY
UWIC, B940, 049B
West of England, BF91
Westminster, B940
Wolverhampton, Y401, B940

BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES

Liverpool, C650
Portsmouth, C650

BIOPHYSICS/BIOPHYSICAL SCIENCE

Bournemouth, F930
East London, C600

BIOSCIENCES/APPLIED BIOSCIENCES

Chester, C9R1, C9R2
Glasgow, C174, C175
Iasgow Caledonian, C120
King's Col, C7T9, C610, C650, C620, J800, CC69, CC57, C720, C700, BC17, F1CR, F1C7, CC79
Leeds Metropolitan, B940

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Aberdeen, J800
Abertay, Dundee, C930, C9B9, C9C5
De Montfort, J800
Glasgow, C110
East London, J800
Glamorgan, J800
London Uni Col (UCL), J800
Luton, GJ58, BJ98, J8B2, BJ28
North East Surrey Col, J801, J808
Nottingham, D8J8
Paisley, J800
Plymouth, C9N1
Portsmouth, J800
South Bank, J800, *
Teesside, J801
West of England, BF91, J800
Westminster, J800, J801
Wolverhampton, Y401, J800

BUILDING/BUILDING STUDIES/BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

Abertay, Dundee, K250,
Anglia, K281
Bolton Inst, K260
Brighton, H108, K200, K260
Central England, K243, K250, K251
Central Lancashire, K250, K240, 002K, OO2K,
De Montfort, K260, OO2K
Glamorgan K201, K208, K250, K2T9
Glasgow Caledonian, K200, K241, K250, K240, K260
Greenwich, K242*
Huddersfield, K290
Liverpool, K200, K201
Luton, KN21, KK24, K210
Napier, K440, K250, K260
North East Surrey Col, KW22, KW2F
Northumbria, H250, H258, 052H, K252, K253, 012K, K251, K470, 002K
Nottingham Trent, K201
Oxford Brookes, K200
Portsmouth, 002KH
Reading, K254, K220, K260
Robert Gordon, K260
Salford, K2N1, K2N3
Southampton Inst, K201E, K201L
South Bank, K240, *
UMIST, K240
Westminster, K240
West of England, K200, 002K
Wolverhampton, K250

BUILDING SURVEYING

Anglia, K260
Brighton, K260
Central England, K260
Coventry, K260, K2TG
De Montfort, K260
Glamorgan, K260, K261, K280, K450, N800
Greenwich, K260, K261, K2F9, K2GM, K262
Heriot-Watt, K260, K270
Kingston, K260
Leeds Metropolitan, *
Liverpool John Moores, K260
Luton, K260
Northumbria, K260, 026K
Nottingham Trent, K260
Reading, K260
Salford, K260
Sheffield Hallam, K260
Westminster, K260
West of England, K260
Wolverhampton, K260

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Coventry, HK22
Luton, NN81, *
West of England, K2K3, K2KH

CARTOGRAPHY

Oxford Brookes, *

CERAMICS/CERAMICS SCIENCE/CERAMICS TECHNOLOGY

Canterbury Christ Church Col, J300
Leeds, J300
North East Wales Inst, W232, WJ23, WJ63, WJ13
Staffordshire, JG35
Swansea Inst, W233
Wolverhampton, Y401, EJ23, WJ23

CLOTHING STUDIES/TECHNOLOGY

De Montfort, 074J
Manchester Metropolitan, J470, J4ND
UMIST, J4T9, J4N9

COMMAND AND CONTROL

Bolton Inst, 964H

COMPUTER SYSTEMS/COMPUTER SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Abertay, Dundee, G561
Aberystwyth, G700
Bangor, H617, H616, H615, H661, H6N1, H6R1, H6R2
Bournemouth, H610, H618, H621, G700, G710
Brighton, G700
Central England, G700, G701, G708, G709
Cheltenham & Gloucester, G525, *N1GM, G521, GF5P*
City, G522, G710, G600, G601, G608, *
Coventry, G500, *
De Montfort, G520
East London, CG1M, L340
Glasgow, GH66, GH7P, G530
Goldsmiths Col, London, G520, G5N2
Greenwich, G6G7
Heriot-Watt, HHM6
Huddersfield, GH56, GK51
Hull, G600, G6N1, G6R1, G6R2, G6T4, G601, G701
Kent, G700K, QG25, QG85
Kingston, G521, G561
Lincolnshire & Humberside, GJ59
Loughborough, H610
Luton, G601
Manchester Metropolitan, G700, G708, GGMC, *
Middlesex, H620B, G500B, G801B
Nottingham Trent, G600, G508
Oxford Brookes, *
Paisley, G500, G700
Plymouth, G600
Portsmouth, G602, H620
Reading, G501, G500, G5V7
Roehampton Inst, G710*
South Bank, G500, *
Sunderland, H611, H618
Teesside, G700
Westminster, G700, H620, PG35, G600,
West of England, G700
Wolverhampton, Y401, *G500*

COMPUTING/COMPUTER SCIENCE/COMPUTER STUDIES

Aberdeen, G502, NGC5, GG51, GG4M, G500*
Aberystwyth, G500, G5T9
Anglia, G500,
Aston, G500, NG45, GN51, CF59, GJ5X, GR51, GR52, GJ59, GL54, G701
Birmingham, G5N1, GG57
Bolton Inst, 216H, H7WG, H7W2, H7WF, G500
Bournemouth, *
Bradford, G500, G501, G520, G521, G5N1, G5NC, G540, G541
Brighton, G501, G500, G560, GF58, GG51, CF53, GG54, *
Brunel, G500, G507, G502, *
Buckinghamshire Col, G500, *
Cardiff, 105G
Central England, G500, GH56, H160, H161, H168
Cheltenham & Gloucester, G561, G526, G505, G5NC
Chester, G500, G170
City, G601, G603, G500, GG15, GG1MC, GG45, GG4MC
De Montfort, G500, G501, G503, Y400, G535
Derby, G501, G506, G507, G800, G700, G540
Dundee, G510, G511, GHM6, *GL51, GL5C, CG85*
East London, G538, GH66, 105G, NG47
Essex, H616, G500, *
Glamorgan, G501, G5N1, G5N4, G5T9, G700, GN51, PG35, G560, G564, G568
Glasgow, NG15, G500 Glasgow *Caledonian, G170, H161, G500*
Goldsmiths Col, London, GG54
Grantham Col, G65X, G507, G508
Greenwich, G500, G504, G5N1, G720, H161
Heriot-Watt, H370, G500, G520, G700, G560, G570
Hertfordshire, G5H7, *
Huddersfield, G700, G500, GG15, G501, GG51, GL57, G523, GT52, GN51
Hull, G500, G560, G700, G702, G703, GG5C, H160, G501, G568
Keele, GL51*
Kent, G500, G501, G504, G5N1, G5NC, H610, H612, H614
King Alfred's Uni Col, G500, *
Kings Col, F3G5, GG1N, GH66, GH6Q, G5N1, GH56, G500, GH6P, T2G5, F1GM, F1G5, R4G5, L8G5, R5G5, *
Kingston, FG15, FG85, FG65, GG15, FG35, GG54
Lancaster, G500
Leeds, G500
Leeds Metropolitan, G501, G710
Leicester, G500
Lincolnshire & Humberside, JG59, G500, *
Liverpool, G520, G500, G5T2
Liverpool John Moores, G610, G618, G600, G501
London Guildhall, G5C8, G520
Luton, G500
Manchester Met, G500, G508, *
Middlesex, H161B, G508B
Napier, GH5P, G500
Nene Col, G560, G500
Newcastle, GH56, GL51, FG35, G500, G700
North East Surrey Col, G500, G508
North East Wales Inst, G500, G564
North London, G500, G501, *
Northumbria, G502, G5N1, G504, G501, G5C8, GP54, 105G, 305G, G508
Nottingham Trent, G501, G507
Oxford Brookes, *
Paisley, GH66, GG54,
Portsmouth, G500, GP52, GH66, GH6P, G600, G603
Queen Mary Westfield Col, G500, G5N1, GG15, GG45, H610, H611
Queen's, G500, G503, GG51, GG54
Reading, G5G1, G5GC, *
Robert Gordon, NG15, G500, G501
Royal Holloway, G500, GG51, GF53
St Andrews, G500, GG15, GF53, GG45
Salford, H610, H6N1,
Sheffield, G700, G600, GN51, *
Southampton, G599, *
Southampton Inst, G501, G502E, G502H, G502L, G502R
South Bank, GL51, *
Staffordshire, GH56, GM53, *
Stirling, G500, *
Suffolk Uni Col, G700
Sunderland, G523, G500, *
Surrey, G560, G561, G510, G511
Sussex, G575, G5R1, G502, *
Swansea Inst, G520
Teesside, G110, H611, G500, GG15, GG54, H109, G710
Thames Valley, G5P3
UMIST, F376, G5Q1
Westminster, GG15, G500, H640, H648
West of England, G500, 105G, G610, GG15, GG67, GG6R

CONSTRUCTION

Anglia, K250
Brighton, K250
Bolton Inst, K250
Central England, K201
Coventry, K200, K2T2
Derby, K252
Heriot-Watt, K200, K241
Leeds Metropolitan, K250, KN29
Liverpool John Moores, K250
Loughborough, K291
Luton, K250
North East Wales Inst
Northumbria, K251, K252, K253, 012K
Nottingham Trent, K200, K258
Paisley, K250, FK92
Portsmouth, FH92
Reading, K201, K255
Robert Gordon, K250
Sheffield Hallam, K250
Southampton Inst, K252, K258E, K258L, K258R
South Bank, K252, K258
Surrey, K285
Swansea, K250
Swansea Inst, K250
Teesside, K200
UMIST, K258
Westminster, K250
West of England, K252, K251
Wolverhampton, H1K2, Y401

CONTROL/CONTROL SYSTEMS

Coventry, H640
Huddersfield, H660
Lincolnshire & Humberside, H643
Sheffield, G600, H370, H640, H642, H670
Teesside, H640

CYBERNETICS/HUMAN CYBERNETICS

Bradford, H658, HH6J

DENTAL TECHNOLOGY

UWIC, B920, 139B

DESIGN

Anglia, H680, H711
Blackpool, E216, E217
Bolton Inst, E200, 29WJ, H768, *H760, H761, H770, H771*
Bournemouth, H680, H688, H762, H768, H770, W230, W231
Brighton, X7W2, XW62, V480, H770
Brunel, H770, *
Central England, W231, E231, W260, E260, W290, WJ23, EJ23, K442
Central Lancashire, H770, H772
Colchester, W200
De Montfort, H770, W280, W210, W230, W290
East London, H600
Edge Hill, X7WF, X7W2
Glamorgan, E210
Glasgow Caledonian, W260
Goldsmiths Col, E200
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Trinity Col, Carmarthen, G520
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Leeds Met, G520
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Manchester Met, G521, G528
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Bradford, GF51, GG51, GF53
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Liverpool John Moores, HN71, HN7C
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TWO DIMENSIONAL DESIGN
Staffordshire, W202, E202

VISION SYSTEMS ENGINEERING
Bournemouth, H770, H771, W230, W231
Hull, H635

WOOD/WOOD SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY
Bangor, D320

YACHT DESIGN/MANUFACTURING/MANAGEMENT/OPERATION
Southampton Inst, J610, J618*

SCIENCE

AGRICULTURE/AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
Aberdeen, CD12, D2N8, D242, D962, D2LC, D200, D220, D240
Aberystwyth, D270, D206, D201, D205, D2N1, D255, L130, D253
Bangor, D200
Bournemouth, D253
Central Lancashire, 002D, D204, *
Cheltenham & Gloucester, D2G5, D2F9, D2F6, D255
Cranfield, D9N1, D200
De Montfort, 033H, 19ND, D240
East London, C910
Glasgow, D820, D821, D860, L130
Harper Adams Col, H330, D200, D900, DN28, D260, D2N1, *
Lampeter, VV1Q
Newcastle, D200, D244, D224, D202, D420, D253
Nottingham, D850, D200
Plymouth, D240, D208, D201, DF29, D2N8, D200
Queen's, D200, D800, I130, I132
Reading, D820, D8TX, D8T2, L130, D200, D242, D2TX, D240, D2TY, D2TF, L130
Royal Agricultural Col, D800, DN28, DN21, D240, DH21, N802, N800, DN2C
Writtle, D201, D2Y1, D2N1
Wye Col, D200, D206, D255

ANALYTICAL SCIENCES
Greenwich, Y120

ANATOMY/ANATOMICAL SCIENCE
Dundee, B120, B140
Glasgow, B140, B141
King's Col, BC17, C400, B150, B100, BB12
Queen's, B140

ANIMAL FARMING/ANIMAL SCIENCES
Aberdeen, D222
Aston, D224
De Montfort, D221, D220
Leeds, D224, D220
Leicester, B124
Lincolnshire & Humberside, D220, D221
Nene Col, D2N8
Newcastle, C305
North East Surrey Col, D220, D228
Nottingham, D220
Nottingham Trent, D239
Plymouth, D220, D201, DF29, D2NB, D200, D224, 022D
Reading, D220, C305
West of England, D220, D254
Writtle Col, D234
Wye Col, D222, D220, D224, D2ND

AQUACULTURE
Middlesex, FN9CE
Oxford Brookes, *
Paisley, F920
Stirling, C172

ARCHAEOLOGY/ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE(S)
Bournemouth, F400, F940, FF49, FF49P
Bradford, V600, V603, V601, V602, F49C, F4CX
East Anglia, Y400
Glasgow, GV56, V602, FV66, FV86
King Alfred's Uni Col, F400, FV41, *
Lampeter, LV66, LV6P
Leicester, LV36
Nene Col, V6Q4, V6V4, V6WZ, V6R1, V6V1, V6N8, V6F1, V6F9, V6J9, V6F6, V6F8, V6H1, V6G4, V6FX
Newcastle, V600
Queen's, V600
Reading, V600
Trinity Col, V600, VW62, *

BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE(S)/STUDIES
Abertay, L730
Bournemouth, B900, B900Y, B901
Brunel, B970
Nene Col, CL83
Suffolk Uni Col, LN7C*
Teesside, N154

BIOLOGY
Aberdeen, C162, C160, CC74
Abertay, Dundee, CF11, CG15, *
Aberystwyth, C100
Anglia, C120, C620
Aston, C112, CF11, CF19, CG11, CG15, CJ19, CJ1X, CL13, CL17, CN11, *
Bangor, D242, C100, C1C7
Birmingham, C100, C101, C160, C260, C300, *
Bolton Inst, C100, D230
Brighton, CF11, CG15, CJ19, CF18, CG11, C120
Brunel, C110, C112, C111
Canterbury Christ Church Col, C160
Central Lancashire, C110, C710
Chester Uni Col, C111*
City, C100, C140, C621
Coventry, C110, *
De Montfort, C110, Y400, 011C
Derby, C100, C101, *
Dundee, C100
East Anglia, F125, F126
East London, C198, C300, L602, LC61, CF14, CN11
Edge Hill Col, C162
Essex, C100, C140, C174, C102
Exeter, C100, CF71
Glamorgan, C100, *
Glasgow, C140, C142, C304, C305, C620, C621, C720, C721
Grantham Col, C118
Greenwich, CM13, C1M3, C110, C1R1, C1R2, C1R4, C111, C160, C161
Halton Col, 001C
Heriot-Watt, C120, C170, C500, C700, C980
Hertfordshire, B1F1, B1F6, B1F9, B1M3, C1B1, 2B1C, 6C1C, C1B1, C1B2, C1C5, C1C6, C1J8, B1H7, B1T2, B1M3, *
Huddersfield, C621
Hull, C100, C101, C1X7, *
Keele, CF1C*, CF11*
Kent, C100, C101
King Alfred's Uni Col, *
King's Col, C1T9, *
Kingston, C111, CF11, CR11, CF18, CF13
Lancaster, C100
Leeds, B150, B151, C100, C110
Leeds Metropolitan, B150
Leicester, CF71, C100, C140, C620
Liverpool, C100, *C110, C130, C160*
Liverpool John Moores, C110
Luton, C100, *
Manchester Metropolitan, C100*
Middlesex, Y400, B150E
Napier, C120
Nene Col, B1F1, *
Newcastle, C100, C110, C306, C620
Newman Col, CV18, CF18
North *East Surrey Col, C110, C118*
North London, C120, *
Northumbria, C100
Nottingham, C160, D820
Nottingham Trent, C110, C118
Oxford Brookes, C100, *C140, B150*
Paisley, C100, C1T2, C1N1
Plymouth, C100, C1F1
Portsmouth, C100, C140
Queen's, C100, C620
Queen Mary Westfield Col, C100, C1N1
Reading, C100
Roehampton Inst, CN19, *
Royal Holloway Col, C100, C160, C140
Salford, FC11, GC51, CF18
Scarborough Uni Col, XC51
Sheffield Hallam, C120, XC71
Southampton, C100
South Bank, C110, C118, B150*
Staffordshire, CH16, CF16, CL18, CF13, CG15, B159*
Stirling, C100, *
St Mary's Uni Col, CF1X, FC81, CQ15
Stockport Col, C100
Suffolk Uni Col, CF19*
Sunderland, C110, B940, CL17
Sussex, C120, C100, C1R1, C1R2, C1R4, C1N1, C104
Swansea, C100, C1R1, C1R2, C1R3, C1R4
UWIC, 011C
West England, C110, CF11, CF19, CG15, X3C1, X4C1
Westminster, C110, C120, C128
Wolverhampton, C120, Y401, C620
Worcester Col, C120, XC51, *
Wye Col, C100
York, C100, C101, C107, C160, *C164*

BREWING AND DISTILLING
Heriot-Watt, C980

CHEMISTRY/CHEMICAL SCIENCES
Aberdeen, F100, *
Abertay, Dundee, F110, F1T2, F140, F111, F126, FG15, FG11, *H200*
Anglia, F100, F101
Aston, F100, F110, FN11, FJ1X, FR11, FR12, FJ19, FG11, FL17, *
Bangor, F100, *
Birmingham, F101, F102, F120, F140
Bradford, F100, F101, F1B2, F1N1, F1NC
Brighton, FG15, FJ19, FF13, FG14,
Brunel, F100, F1NC
Central Lancashire, F110, F312, F130, F100, 001F, F101, FH16
City, F110
Coventry, F110, *
Derby, FF19, FF1X, F140, FF15
De Montfort, F110, Y400, F1N1, X7FC, 001F, *
Dundee, F100, F101, CF7C, F120, *
East Anglia, F100, F101, F102, *FJ06, FF31*
Exeter, F100, F103, F104, F162
Glasgow, F100, F103, F140
Glasgow Caledonian, F1G5
Glamorgan, FC11, FF16, FJ11
Grantham Col, F108
Greenwich, F120, F121
Halton Col, F100, F106
Heriot-Watt, F100, F110, F114, F125, F1C7, F1G5, F1L1, F102, F1R1*
Hertfordshire, G1B1, F1F6, F1H7, B1M3, F1H7, F1L1, *
Huddersfield, F100, F180, F1C7, F1J8, F1H8, F1F9, F1N1, F120
Hull, F100, F101, F102, F130, F166, F184, F185, F1F9, F1H8, *
Keele, FQ18*
Kent, F100, F101, F102, F103, F105, F127, F128, F129, F1C1, F1CC, F1CD, F1F9, F1FX, F1FY, F1N1, F1NC, F1ND, FF19, FN11, FN1C, FN1D, FNCC, FNCD, FNDD
King's Col, FG1C, F1N1, F1NC, F1GM, F1ND, F1V5, FF13, FG11, F181, F1G5, FF1H, F105, F1CR, F1C7, F103, F115, F130, F131, F146, F152, F180, F100, F1C1
Kingston, F100, F110, F1N1, FR11, FF31
Lancaster, F100
Leeds, F100, F120, F180, F174, F176
Leicester, F103, *
Liverpool, F100, F102, F106, F1TF, F1T2, F160
Liverpool John Moores, F100, F161
Loughborough, F100, F170, F180
London Uni Col (UCL), F100, F101, F1T2, F1N1
Manchester, F100, F101, F102, FF13, F170, F1B3, F1M3
Manchester Metropolitan, GFM1, F100, F101, F102, CF11, F110, *
Napier, F110
Newcastle, F100, F102, F101, FG14, FG11, FF13, F122, F126, F11F, F11G, F1T2, F111
North London, F100, F130, *
Nottingham Trent, F103, F110, F108, F100, F101, F104, F102, F105, FG11, FF13
Northumbria, F110, F118, F180, F1C7, F1B9, F1H8, F1F9, F170, F101
Oxford Brookes, *
Plymouth, F180, F110, F140, F1F5
Paisley, F100, F1T2, F1N1, F160, F120, F161
Portsmouth, F110
Queen's, F100, F102, FG15
Queen Mary Westfield Col, F100, F126, F140, F1C1, F1C7, F1N1, FF13, FG11, FR1F
Reading, F100, F103, FD14, F1NL, F1GM, F1LC, F1N4, F1G5, F1L1, F101, F104, F105
Robert Gordon, CF91, F110
Salford, F100, F110, *
St Andrews, F100*
Sheffield, F105, F106, FF15, FJ15
Sheffield Hallam, F110, F140, F103, F126, XF71
Southampton, F100, *
Staffordshire, FC17, CF11, FJ13, FG15, F110, F100, F147, F148, BC17, F109, F101, F180, *
Stirling, F100, FX17
Stockport Col, F100
Sunderland, FB13
Surrey, F107, F100, F103, F101, F104, F106, F102, F188, F189
Sussex, F100, F1R1, F1R2, F1R4, F1N1, F1Q4, F1J4, F120
Swansea, F180, F101, F102, F107, F103, F104, F105, F181, F182, FN1D, FN1C, F1NC, F110, F1ND, FN11, F1G5, F1GM, F1GN, F161, F1FC, F144, F111, F1MJ, F1MH, F1N1, F1N2, F1NF
Teesside, F100, F1N1
UMIST, H800, F102
Warwick, F100, F105, F140, F121, F125, FN11, F1C8
Westminster, F110, FF91, FG15, F140
Wolverhampton, F110, F180, F1J4, *
York, F100, *

CHIROPODY
Brighton, B985
Glasgow Caledonian, B985
London Uni Col (UCL), B986
Nene Col, B985
Plymouth, B985

CHIROPRACTIC
Glamorgan, B965

COGNITIVE SCIENCE/STUDIES
Essex, C8G5
Hertfordshire, C801
Middlesex, C878E
Westminster, C878

CONSERVATION
Bournemouth, F940, FF49
De Montfort, W160
Derby, D255
East Anglia, D260
Edge Hill Col, C161
London Inst, J560, E560
South Bank, D260, D261
Stirling, D255
Writtle, D260

CONSUMER SCIENCE/STUDIES
Bradford & Ilkley Col, B900, L530
Glasgow Caledonian, N980
Liverpool John Moores, N980
Queen Margaret Col, N980
Manchester Metropolitan, N750, N984
Roehampton Inst, CN19, *
Salford, N750
UWIC, N750

DECISION SCIENCES/SYSTEMS
Bournemouth, G522
North London, N240, *
Plymouth, G4ND
Portsmouth, G520
Wolverhampton, Y401

DENTISTRY
Manchester Metropolitan, B930

DISEASES (INFECTIOUS)
East London, C921

EARTH SCIENCES/STUDIES
Anglia, F920
Bournemouth, F930, FF49, OO9F, OO9FY, *
Brunel, F900
City, F640
Kingston, F640
Liverpool John Moores, *F920*
Nene Col, *
Plymouth, FF69
Portsmouth, F640
Wolverhampton, *

ECOLOGY/ECOLOGICAL SCIENCE
Aberdeen, D230
Bangor, D230
Bath Col, N750
Bournemouth, F930, FF49
City, CP99
Derby, HW72, EW72
Dundee, CD12
East London, C910, D235
Essex, D230, D238, C160, C161
Goldsmiths Col, E201
Greenwich, C911
Lancaster, C900
Leeds, C900
Liverpool John Moores, C910
Luton, CF99, *
Middlesex, F940P
Nene Col, C9F1, C9F9, C9J9, C9F6, C9F8, C9B1, C9H1, C9G4, C9FX
Newcastle Uni, F9D2
North London, CF99, *
Northumbria, D250
Oxford Brookes, *
Plymouth, D230
Portsmouth, F612
Queen Mary Westfield Col, C910
Roehampton, CD92
Staffordshire, CG95, CL98, F610, F630, C919
St Andrews, D230
Stirling, L120, C900
Sussex, CD92
Westminster, C910
Wolverhampton, C910, *

ELECTRONICS/ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS
Abertay, H680, HH5P
Anglia, H602
Aston, HN61, HC61, HF61, HG65, HR61, HR62, HJ69, HL64, HL63
Bolton Inst, H607, H603, H648, *H640, H641, H628, H621, H610*, H611, H618
Bournemouth, H600, H610, H618, H761, H768, HC61
Central Lancashire, H612
Derby, HH67
East Anglia, H608, H6N1
Glamorgan, H601, H602, H5H3, H6N1
Grantham Col, GH5P
Halton Col, *
Hertfordshire, H640, H648, H6F6, H6H7, W3T2, H6M3, H6F3, *
Kingston, H600, H6GN, H6G5
Liverpool John Moores, H640, H648
Luton, H646, HG65, HNP6, HPPK, HN6P, GHM6, HW6M
Manchester Met, H600*
Middlesex, H601B, HN61B, H608B
North East Wales Inst, W2H5
North London, H600, *
Northumbria, H611, H618, H612, H635, H638
Nottingham Trent, GH56, GH5P
Oxford Brookes, H600
Royal Holloway Col, H600
Staffordshire, FH16, LH76, HJ63
Swansea, H620, H621
UWIC, H601, 195H, 116H, H602
Wolverhampton, Y401

ENERGY SCIENCE/STUDIES/SYSTEMS/TECHNOLOGY
Anglia, K245, K246, K247
Brighton, J9N1, JF98, GJ19, JF93, JG94
Nene Col, *

ENTOMOLOGY
Newcastle Uni, CD32

ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE/STUDIES/SYSTEMS/TECHNOLOGY
Aberdeen, G830, CD59, F900, F920, F902, F832
Abertay, C9F9, F900, F910
Aberystwyth, C160, F910, F6X9, F900
Anglia, F912, BF29, C160, F901, F912, F940
Aston, CF19, FF19, FJ9Y, FL94, FN91, FF19, FR91, FR92, FM91, FL94
Bangor, C160, F900, Y401
Bath Col, F900, C160
Birmingham, F900
Bolton Inst, F900, HF19
Bournemouth, F930, FF49
Bradford, F900, F902, FL9V, HL98, KF49, KF4X
Brighton, F901
Canterbury Christ Church Col, FL93, FR91, FL98, FV91, FW93, FV98, FG94, FP97, *
Central England, K440, K443, K444, K445, F910
Central Lancashire, F905, 2D9F, F9D2, F910, F900, F930
Cheltenham & Gloucester, F9D2, F9L8, F9F6, F9PT
Chester Uni Col, F900, F9D2
Chichester Inst, LF89, *
City, FH92, H250, C160, F900, F610
Colchester Inst, F900
Coventry, F901, F900
Cranfield, F9N8
De Monfort, F110, X7F1, F900
Derby, F900, *
Durham, F9H2, F900, F9H2, L1F9
Dundee, FLX1, FL98, FG91, FV91, FM91, K300, F900
East Anglia, D255
East London, F900, F911, FL46, *
Exeter, F900
Glamorgan, FL93
Glasgow, CF76, FF18
Glasgow Caledonian, F910, H200, F930
Glamorgan, F9B6, F9C1, F9F1, F9F6, F9J1, FJ9, F630, F900, 8F69
Grantham Col, B908
Greenwich, *
Halton Col, 009F, *
Heriot-Watt, FK93, F630, F638
Hertfordshire, F638, F9F6, F9H7, F901*, F902, F903, F910, F918, F930, F9T2, F9M3, F9H7, *
Huddersfield, F9N1, F910, FH91
Keele, FRX1, FFX6, FRX2, FVX1, FVXC, FQX6, FGX1, FMX1, FLX3
King's Col, C1F9, F910
Kingston, F360, F900m F921
Lampeter F920, FV96
Lancaster, F140, F920, F900
Leeds, F910, F904, F902
Leeds Metropolitan, B900
Leicester, C900
Lincolnshire & Humberside, F900, F901, DF4Y, DF4X, FN91, F908
Liverpool, K4L8
Liverpool John Moores, F140, F900, F910
Loughborough, K240
Luton, BC91, *
Manchester, F630, F900, F901, F910
Manchester Metropolitan, B900, F910, F918, F900, F908, F901*
Middlesex, F9JJP, FNX1E, F908B, Y400, B900B, F900B
Napier, C160, F374
Nene Col, F910
Newcastle, D255, C160, DF29, L120, DI21, NL11, N180, D234, C180, D224, F910
Newport, FT29, FL98, FG95, BF69, QV36, FV96, VT62, LV86, VV16, GV56, BV66
North East Surrey Col, F918, F919
North London, CF9X, *
Northumbria, F901, F900, F910
Norwich City Col, C160
Nottingham Trent, B900, B908, FF19, FGXM, FGX1, FF39
Oxford Brookes, Y100, C160, F644
Paisley, C160, F900
Plymouth, F910
Portsmouth, FH92, C160, F900, F610
Queen's, C160
Queen Mary Westfield Col, F900
Reading, F140, F142, F925, F141, F630, F900, D230, D253, F920, C160, C165, C254
Ripon & York St John Col, F913, F9L8, F9N1, F9X9, KS2, KS3
Robert Gordon, F900
Roehampton, F900*
St Andrews, F840*
Salford, F910, F9T2, F9T3, *F900*, K31N, C160
Scarborough, F900, F9Y1, F9Y2, F9Y3
Sheffield Hallam, F910, F900, F912, K421, D255
Southampton, F900
South Bank, DF49, FB91, FB94, FL9K, FL93, BF69
Staffordshire, F902, F901, CF19, MF39, MF3X, F931, F939, *
Stirling, FL91, FF19, C160, F9X9, F900, CF19, FG95, FG91
Sunderland, C160, C168, F900, *F918, FH62, F930*
Suffolk Uni Col, FN9C*
Surrey, C510
Sussex, F900, F9M9, F9R1, F9R2, F9R4, F9Q4
Swansea Inst, *F910*
Trinity Col, DF29
UWIC, F910
West England, B900, F900, FG95, FF89
Westminster, FN91
Wolverhampton, F910, F900, K3F9, *
Worcester Col, F900
Writtle, F900, *F901*
Wye Col, F910, C160, F900
York, CL91

ERGONOMICS
Aston, JJX9, JLX4, JMX1, JRX1, JN19

EVOLUTION STUDIES
Portsmouth, F615

FIRE ENGINEERING/SCIENCE/STUDIES
Leeds, H860, H866, H865, H864
South Bank, H860

FISHERIES SCIENCE/STUDIES/TECHNOLOGY
Plymouth, J602

FOOD SCIENCE/FOOD STUDIES/FOOD TECHNOLOGY
Bath Col, D450
Blackpool & The Fylde Col, D430
Bournemouth, D400
Chester Uni Col, BD44
Dundee, D400
Glasgow Caledonian, D420, B400
Glamorgan, D420
Huddersfield, DB44
King's Col, B400, B401
Leeds, D400
Lincolnshire & Humberside, D400, D421, D423, DN41, BD4K, DN4C, BD44, D408
Liverpool John Moores, N750, D420, BD94, D420, BD94
Manchester Metropolitan, BD44, D4N1, D421
Newcastle Uni, D450, DL41
North London, DN49, BD44
Northumbria, BD44
Nottingham, C560, D400
Oxford Brookes, *
Plymouth, D204, D402, D401, C560
Queen's, D400, D421
Queen Margaret Col, D4N5
Reading, D430, D470, D400, D450, D421
Roehampton Inst, CN19
Sheffield Hallam, DN45, N750, D420, L535
South Bank, D400*
Teesside, D420, BD44
UWIC, D400
Wolverhampton, C560, *
Wye Col, D450

FORENSIC SCIENCE STUDIES
Glamorgan, F125, CF11, FM13, BF66, CF11

FORESTRY/FOREST SCIENCE
Aberdeen, D300, D310
Bangor, DD23, D300, D2L1, D253, D200
De Monfort, D300

GENETICS
Aberdeen, C400, C450
Aberystwyth, C400, CC47
Glasgow, C400, C401
Leeds, C400, C402
Leicester, C400
Newcastle, C400
Queen's, C400
Queen Mary Westfield Col, C400, C4C5
Swansea, C400
Wolverhampton, C4C6

GEOCHEMISTRY
Anglia, F670
Greenwich, F670
Manchester, F670
St Andrews, F670

GEOLOGY/GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE
Aberdeen, F602
Aberystwyth, F600
Anglia, F600, F610
Birmingham, F600, F610, F6C1
Brunel, FL68
Cheltenham & Gloucester Col, F6GN, F6G5, F6D2, F6F8
City, F600, FF68, F615
Derby, F600, F610, FF81
De Montfort, F610
Exeter, F605
Glamorgan, F6C1, F6F1, F6F9, F6J1, FC61, *
Glasgow, F600, FF16, FF68
Greenwich, F600, F601, F608
Keele, FR62*
Leeds, F906
Halton Col, *
Hertfordshire, F600, F6B1*, F6T2
Kingston, F600, F615, F6N1, FF63
Leicester, F600, F610
Luton, F600, *
Manchester, F600
Oxford Brookes, F610, F642
Plymouth, F610, F601
Portsmouth, F600, FF68
Queen's, F600
Queen Mary Westfield Col, F800, F830, F840
Royal Holloway Col, G600, FF65, *FC61, FG61, F6F9*
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Huddersfield, L530, B165
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Hertfordshire, G100, G1T2, G1N2, G1F3, *
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Kingston, G100, FG31, GG41, G1N1, G1NC
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West of England, Y120, FGP4.
Wolverhampton, Y100, Y110

SPORT/SPORT(S) SCIENCE/STUDIES
Aberdeen, B600
Anglia, B600
Brighton, LN3R, LN37
Canterbury Christ Church Col, WB16, GB16, BV68, BY16, BG64
Central Lancashire, B600
Cheltenham & Gloucester Col, B600, B6FX, B6F6, B6F9
Chichester, BL63
City, B600, B650
Coventry, B600, *
De Montfort, BD62, BL63
East London, B993
Essex, B6C7, B6C1, B6F3
Glamorgan, B600, B601, *
Glasgow, BB69
Grantham Col, 76NB
Greenwich, B600, B601, X591
Halton Col, *
Hull, B6C1, B6G1, B6N1, F1B6
King Alfred's Uni Col, *
Liverpool John Moores, XX78, WN47
Luton, BN67, B6N7
Manchester Metropolitan, B600, *Y420*
Middlesex, B601E
Moray House Inst, B610
Nene Col, *
Newman Col, LX79, CX19, FX89
Newport, BV68
North London, CB16, OO7N, Y400, B600, BW68, B601, Y100
Nottingham Trent, B6N7
Plymouth, N780, 587N, 687N, X3X8, X6X8
Roehampton Inst, B6L3*
Salford, BB96
Staffordshire, B601
St Mark & St John Col, N7W1, N7L8, N781
St Martin Uni Col, Lancaster, B600, X5XV
St Mary's, CB16, BF6X, FB86, QB56, VB86
South Bank, B600, BJ69, BP67, H7B6
Sunderland, B600
Swansea, B600
Teesside, B600
Trinity Col, XX58
Warrington Col, BN61
Westhill Col, Y4L4
Wolverhampton, BN67, B6X9, *
Worcester Col, XX58, XX68

STATISTICS/STATISTICAL SCIENCE
Aberdeen, G400, G408, G402, G404, GN41
Abertay, G140
Aberystwyth, G400
Brighton, G4N1
Brunel, GG41, GG4D, GG4C
Canterbury Christ Church Col, GW4S*
City, G4N1, G4NC, G4ND
Coventry, *
Dundee, GL41, GL4C
East London, G440, GG14
Essex, GL41
Exeter, GN42, GN4F
Glamorgan, GN41
Glasgow, G400
Glasgow Caledonian, G400
Goldsmiths Col, GG45
Greenwich, G4N4, G4M9, G411, G4N1, G4G5
Heriot-Watt, GG14, G400
Hertfordshire, G4F6, G4H7, G4M3, G4F3, *
Hull, GL41, G4T2
Keele, GW41
Kent, GL41, GG45
Kingston, G4N1, G4NC
Liverpool John Moores, G440
London Uni Col (UCL), G400, G4N1, G4T2
Luton, GN4K, GN41, GG45, FG64, GN45, GL47
Middlesex, Y400
North London, G411, GN41, GGL5, GX49
Nottingham Trent, G400
Portsmouth, G400
Oxford Brookes, GN41, GN4N, *
Queen's, GN42
Queen Mary Westfield, *G400*
Reading, G400, G401
Sheffield Hallam, G411
St Andrews, G402, G400
Staffordshire, JG34, GH46, FG94, *GL48, FG64, FG34, GG54*
Swansea, G400, G401
Teesside, GN41, GN42
West England, G400
Westminster, GN42

TOXICOLOGY
London, B220
Napier, B220

TROPICAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Aberdeen, F904

VETERINARY MEDICINE/SCIENCE
Newcastle, D220

ZOOLOGY
Aberdeen, C340, C302, C329, C320, C340
Aberystwyth, C300
Dundee, C300
Glasgow, C300, C301
Leeds, C300, C310
Leicester, C300
Liverpool John Moores, C310
Queen's, C300
Queen Mary Westfield Col, C300
Reading, C300
Roehampton Inst, C300
Royal Holloway, C300

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NEWS

Scramble for university places

■ *Universities reported an unprecedented scramble for the last* free higher education places, as anxious students snapped up a record number of vacancies *within 24 hours of A-level results* being published.

Tutors said panicking *applicants* were *jamming telephone* lines or appearing in person. Two-thirds of the expected 310,000 vacancies were filled................................ **Pages 1, 18, 19, 22, 23**

Woman jailed over road rage attack

■ A woman stockbroker who exploded with road rage and ran down a cyclist for clipping the mirror of her car was jailed for five months yesterday. Frances Cernuschi, who earns £60,000 a year, also had her car confiscated................................ **Page 1**

Pensioners' windfall

Two pensioners exploring a [illegible] sex field with metal detecto[illegible] have unearthed a hoard of Anglo-Saxon silver coins........................ **Page 1**

MP suspended

Labour MP Tommy Graham will be suspended for calling Gordon McMaster, who killed himself, a drunkard .... **Pages 1, 8, 9**

Fayed denial

Dodi Fayed denied claims by a model that he had jilted her, as Diana, Princess of Wales, flew to Athens in a Harrods jet .... **Page 3**

Agent banned

Caroline Quentin was one of several actors badly out of pocket after their former agent was banned from showbusiness work for ten years .... **Page 6**

Lake mystery deepens

Police investigating the Coniston murder mystery of the "Lady in the Lake" have the names of 30 missing women................. **Page 7**

Centenarians muster

Eighty sprightly centenarians flew into London in what is thought to be the world's largest gathering of 100-year-olds .... **Page 11**

Women enslaved

A Russian carpenter has been accused of enslaving six women who were kept for years in an underground prison .... **Page 12**

Iran's nuclear needs

Iran has reportedly approached South Africa with a list of items needed for the production of nuclear weapons.............. **Page 13**

Memphis bells

Memphis has been a bizarre place over the 20th anniversary week of Elvis's death .... **Pages 14, 19**

Maverick's rebate

Thousands of Italians queued to receive handouts of £17 from a maverick politician protesting at the use of tax funds to finance *political parties* .... **Page 15**

German beach cultists battle on

■ Bewildered locals watched as 50 members of a German cult called the Horst Schaffranek evangelical movement, who have invaded a remote Cornish beach, continued to resist officials who tried to serve them with eviction notices .... **Page 5**

GRAHAM CHADWICK

England's women cricketers applaud from the balcony on their way to victory in the first one-day international against South Africa

OPINION

Borderline grade: The principles of excellence and expansion are not inherently incompatible and must be reconciled if students are to get the best .... **Page 19**

Cracking drug trade: Curbing demand is the first step in halting the flow of drugs from *Latin America's killing* fields .... **Page 19**

LETTERS

High temperatures, but what of humidity? Africa today; *philosophers' touchstone*; foxhunting; cricket fatalities; Lords reform .... **Page 19**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: British education post-16 has come of age. Next time the Government ponders a reform, it should listen to the customers. They are not parents. They are pupils .... **Page 18**

Roy Hattersley: While Peter Mandelson's strategy to combat *social exclusion is* working through, thousands of families are living below the poverty line............ **Page 18**

OBITUARIES

Gérard Jaboulet, wine producer; **Gordon Legg**, missionary.............. **Page 21**

BUSINESS

Mortgages: The home loan war heated up after the Halifax and Nationwide, which provide mortgages a third of borrowers, announced increases .... **Page 25**

Alliance: Alliance & Leicester ruled out a foreign purchase with its £800 million cash pile, leaving the way open for a dividend for two million *shareholders*........... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index *fell 125.5 points to close at* 4865.8. Sterling's trade-weighted *index rose* from 101.8 to 102.1 after a rise from $1.5870 to $1.6093..... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Steve McManaman returned to Liverpool with his career at Anfield in the balance after the breakdown of his move to Barcelona. The England player claimed that he had never asked for a *move* .... **Pages 45, 48**

Cricket: England's women overwhelmed South Africa in the first one-day international *at Bristol, winning by* 79 runs........................**Page 42**

Rugby union: *Bath strength*ened their squad a week before the start of the English league season by signing Ieuan Evans .... **Page 41**

ARTS

Class divisions: In Edinburgh Benedict Nightingale reviews two plays, both set in schools and with matching blackboards — but *there similarities* end.......... **Page 16**

Market forces: "What fascinates people is the know*ledge that they have* been hoodwinked by a really classy marketing trick" — Richard Morrison on Oasis and more.......**Page 17**

Birdland: *The Seagull* at the Donmar in a production that hurls the lines at the audience ....**Page 17**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Joely Richardson: **Page 8**
100 Footballers:.. **Page 20**
Art of tyranny:..... **Page 14**
Fashion:............... **Page 24**
Food and drink: .. **Page 33**

Weekend

Ring king: Muhammad Ali's magic............ **Page 1**

Fashion:.................. **Page 3**
Gardening: .... **Pages 4-6**
Country life: .... **Page 7**
Travel:............ **Pages 15-20**

10 15

Here to where: Still at the top, what is left for Oasis to achieve? ...... **Pages 6, 7**
Indi pendence:...... **Page 8**

Victims of TV: *Don't* expose yourself to TV documentaries..**Pages 4, 5**
Books: .... **Pages 9-14**
What's on: ..... **Pages 15-17**

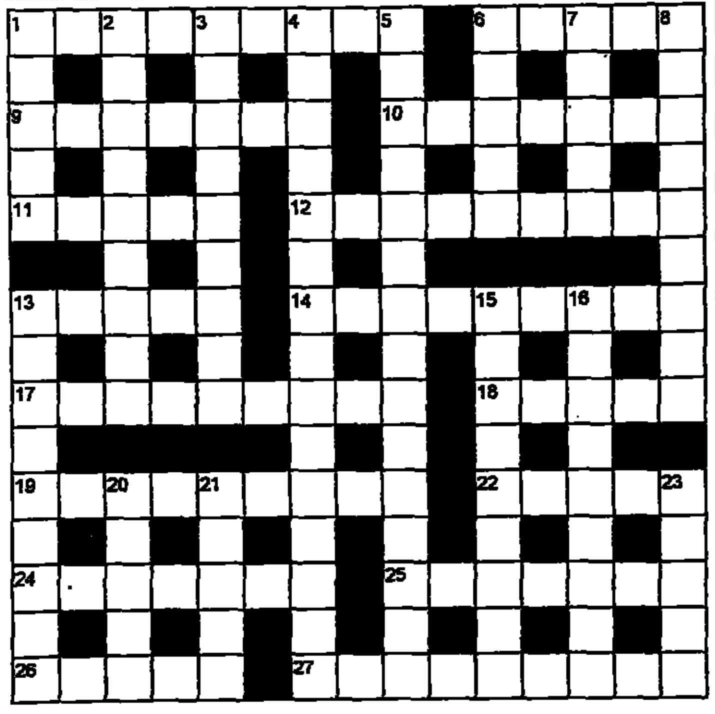
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,560

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



ACROSS

1 Dress with pins left showing (9).
6 Scour the brushwood (5).
9 Order a river cruise (7).
10 Damned retriever, perhaps, has *vanished* (7).
11 Laetitia, in particular, employed to nurse son (5).
12 Knock back drink with food that is appetising (9).
13 Dismal master keeping learner in (5).
14 Coiner whose output may achieve *general circulation* (9).
17 Refuse to believe smear (9).
18 Very light talk showing natural ability (5).
19 Pull out all the stops? Quite the reverse (9).
22 Leading strings needing resin to be flexible (5).
24 Spike advert for noise abatement device (7).
25 One whose home is available for hopeless cases (7).
26 Departmental head, stern and *gloomy* (5).
27 One of the picnickers called after Roosevelt (5,4).

DOWN

1 Munch, top performer on canvas (5).
2 Lugs around poems showing immaturity (9).
3 *Not the right place for weedy* chap to train (3-6).
4 Sort of *partner*, man on board, given help for peaceful retirement (8,7).
5 *Where guidelines are laid down* for moderate (6-2-3-4).
6 Spectacle that comes as a relief for sore eyes (5).
7 Lozenge initially recommended by house doctor (5).
8 Warder's exploit with drug concealed in drink (9).
13 Cover for a dorm feast? (9).
15 Money collected to present to politician (9).
16 Is it Alice's turn to show stress? (9).
20 Tender taking railwaymen over points (5).
21 *What pronouncement identified* this rebel leader? (5).
23 Older one left a Spanish title (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,554

B	I	G	A	M	Y		S	L	I	P	S	H	O	D
O		R		U		P		Y		A		O		E
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	R		R	O	U	S	T
A		A		I		I		I		A		R		O
N	O	T	I	C	E	S		C	A	M	P	I	O	N
Y		D				O				E				A
	T	A	K	E	I	N	G	O	O	D	P	A	R	T
S		N		S		E		N		I		N		E
T	H	E	E	T	E	R	N	A	L	C	I	T	Y	
U				A				P				I		I
B	L	O	O	M	E	R		L	E	G	S	P	I	N
B		P		I		E		A		N		A		T
O	F	T	E	N		R	E	T	R	O	U	S	S	E
R		I		E		A		E		M		T		N
N	I	C	O	T	I	N	E		R	E	V	O	L	T

Solution to Puzzle No 20,559

O	R	W	E	L	L		A	R	K	A	N	S	A	N
N		H		U		C		E		P		W		E
T	R	O	O	P	S	H	I	P		P	R	A	N	G
H		S		I		A		O		O		N		U
E	D	W	I	N		N	A	R	C	I	S	S	U	S
S		H				N		T		N		E		
P	R	O	C	U	R	E	M	E	N	T		A	D	O
O				N		L		D		E				V
T	E	A		D	I	S	A	S	S	E	M	B	L	E
		M		O		W		P				A		R
P	R	E	J	U	D	I	C	E		C	O	R	P	S
R		R		B		M		E		R		R		L
E	X	I	S	T		M	A	C	H	I	N	A	T	E
Y		C		E		E		H		M		G		E
S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D		U	P	K	E	E	P

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *G Stubbs, Beeston, Notts; H A Swann, Nailsworth, Glos; K Ledingham, Aylesbury, Bucks; D Mann, Bude, Cornwall; M Hill, Epsom, Surrey.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 5.48 am — Sun sets: 8.21 pm
Moon sets 3.14 am — Moon rises 6.52 pm

Full moon August 18

London 8.21 pm to 5.49 am
Bristol 8.31 pm to 5.59 am
Edinburgh 8.47 pm to 5.45 am
Manchester 8.35 pm to 5.52 am
Penzance 8.39 pm to 6.14 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5.49 am — Sun sets: 8.19 pm
Moon sets 4.26 am — Moon rises 7.34 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 8.19 pm to 5.51 am
Bristol 8.29 pm to 6.01 am
Edinburgh 8.45 pm to 5.50 am
Manchester 8.33 pm to 5.54 am
Penzance 8.37 pm to 6.16 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	00.09	6.1	12.44	6.4
Aberdeen	00.00	3.9	12.36	3.9
Avonmouth	05.53	11.8	18.25	12.6
Belfast	09.53	3.2	22.18	3.2
Cardiff	05.39	11.0	18.11	11.7
Devonport	04.21	4.9	16.51	5.2
Dover	09.58	6.1	22.12	6.3
Dublin (N Wall)	10.42	3.7	22.56	3.9
Falmouth	03.52	4.7	16.22	5.0
Greenock	11.29	3.1	-	-
Harwich	10.45	3.7	23.18	3.9
Holyhead	09.24	5.0	21.44	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	05.07	7.9	17.44	7.9
Ilfracombe	04.44	9.0	17.14	8.5
King's Lynn	05.11	5.9	17.45	6.0
Leith	01.14	5.0	13.49	5.1
Liverpool	10.11	8.5	22.26	9.0
Lowestoft	08.19	2.4	20.54	2.4
Margate	10.52	4.4	23.24	4.5
Milford Haven	04.50	6.0	17.27	6.4
Newquay	03.55	6.1	16.22	6.5
Oban	04.53	3.4	17.21	3.7
Penzance	03.22	4.9	15.50	5.2
Portland	05.47	1.6	19.11	1.5
Portsmouth	10.29	4.3	22.42	4.5
Shoreham	10.07	5.6	22.32	5.9
Southampton	09.43	4.2	22.04	4.4
Swansea	05.09	8.2	17.38	8.7
Tees	02.25	4.8	14.59	4.9
Walton-on-N	10.42	3.8	23.12	4.0

All times BST. Hights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: **Highest day temp:** London Weather Centre 30C (86F); **lowest day max:** Fair Isle, 15C (59F); **highest rainfall:** Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 0.56in; **highest sunshine:** Poole, Dorset, 13.9hr

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales will be dry and sunny once any early mist and low cloud have cleared, although isolated showers are possible over hills. It will become very warm inland, but coasts will be cooler, with onshore breezes.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be warm with some hazy sunshine, but western areas will turn cloudy with a threat of rain by evening

☐ **London, E Midlands, W Midlands:** any early mist will soon clear to leave a fine, warm day with good sunny spells. A light southeast wind. Max 27C (81F).

☐ **SE England, E Anglia, E England, Channel Isles, NE England:** any early mist will soon clear to leave a warm and sunny day. A light southeast wind. Max 27C (81F); cooler on the coast with an onshore breeze.

☐ **Central S England, SW England, S Wales:** fog on some south-facing coasts. Elsewhere dry, warm and sunny. A light southeast wind. Max 25C (77F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England:** dry and sunny, cloud over the west later. A light southeast wind. Max 25C (77F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** coastal fog, then warm and sunny. A moderate southeast wind. Max 25C (77F), lower on coasts.

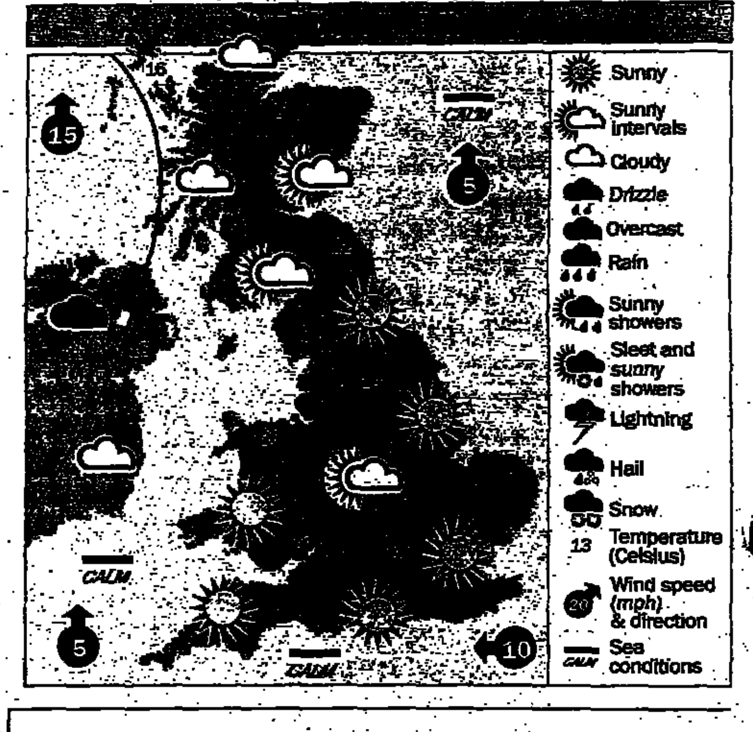
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** warm and sunny, turning cloudy in the west later with the threat of rain. A brisk south to southeast wind. Max 23C (73F).

☐ **Central Highlands:** mainly dry with warm sunny spells. A moderate southeast wind. Max 25C (77F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** some fog, otherwise dry with sunny spells. A moderate southeast wind. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **N Ireland:** dry and sunny, later more cloudy with rain in the west. A brisk southeast wind. Max 22C (72F).

☐ **Outlook:** dry and warm, but a few scattered showers likely on Sunday, perhaps with thunder in eastern England.



AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

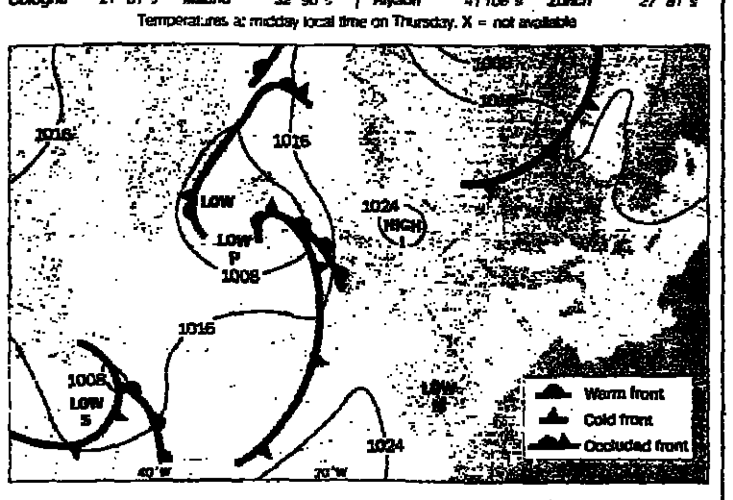
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	10.2	-	27	81	s	Leuchars	9.1	-	25	77	b
Anglesey	10.0	0.01	21	70	s	Littlehmptn	12.7	-	23	73	s
Aspatria	4.8	0.01	22	72	d	London	11.9	-	30	86	s
Aviemore	8.1	-	24	75	b	Lowestoft	10.4	-	23	73	s
Belfast	4.7	0.05	23	73	r	Manchester	10.7	-	25	77	s
Birmingham	12.2	-	27	81	s	Margate	13.0	-	27	81	s
Bognor R	12.8	-	25	77	s	Minehead	12.6	-	23	73	s
Bournem'th	13.1	-	25	77	s	Morecambe	9.1	-	23	73	b
Bristol	11.4	-	26	79	s	Newcastle	12.2	-	24	75	s
Buxton	12.2	-	25	77	s	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	*12.9*	-	*23*	*73*	*s*	*Norwich*	*11.0*	-	*27*	*81*	*s*
Clacton	13.1	-	21	70	s	Oxford	12.6	-	27	81	s
Cleethorpes	13.5	-	23	73	s	Penzance	X	-	22	72	s
Colwyn Bay	10.6	-	22	72	s	Poole	13.9	-	27	81	s
Cromer	13.2	-	21	70	s	Prestatyn	X				
Dunbar	8.5	-	25	77	b	Ross-o-wye	12.1	-	25	77	s
Eastbourne	13.0	-	24	75	s	Salcombe	12.1	-	22	72	s
Edinburgh	5.2	-	25	77	b	Saunton Snd	12.3	-	23	73	s
Eskdalemuir	1.7	0.04	19	66	d	Scarboro'	10.4	-	24	75	s
Exmouth	11.1	-	22	72	s	Shrewsbury	X				
Falmouth	13.1	-	22	72	s	Skegness	13.0	-	23	73	s
Fishguard	7.0	0.01	21	70	c	Southend	13.6	-	26	79	s
Folkestone	13.5	-	23	73	s	Southport	13.5	-	24	75	s
Glasgow	2.9	0.01	23	73	r	Southsea	12.7	-	24	75	s
Guernsey	11.4	-	23	73	s	Stornoway	9.7	0.08	19	66	s
Hastings	13.1	-	23	73	s	Swanage	13.3	-	24	75	s
Hayling I	12.9	-	22	72	s	Teignmouth	13.3	-	23	73	s
Herne Bay	X					Tenby	6.1	-	21	70	b
Hove	8.1	-	23	73	s	Tiree	8.3	0.56	18	64	s
Hunstanton	11.4	-	24	75	s	Torquay	12.2	-	23	73	s
Isle-of-man	4.3	-	20	68	fg	Tynemouth	X				
Isle-of-wight	13.4	-	24	75	s	West-s-mare	10.5	-	25	77	s
Jersey	13.1	-	25	77	s	Weymouth	11.4	-	21	70	s
Kinloss	*7.4*	*0.01*	*23*	*73*	*b*						
Leeds	13.2	-	28	82	s						
Lerwick	-	0.01	15	59	fg						

ABROAD

Ajaccio	28	82	X	Corfu	30	86	s	Majorca	30	86	s	Rome	30	86 s
Akrotiri	27	81	s	C'phagn	28	82	s	Malaga	27	81	s	S Fr'isco	19	66 s
Alex'dria	29	84	s	Dublin	23	73	f	Malta	28	82	s	S Paulo	26	79 s
Algiers	29	84	s	Dubrovnik	28	82	s	Melb'rne	15	59	c	Salzburg	26	79 f
Amst'dm	*20*	*68*	*c*	*Faro*	*31*	*88*	*s*	*Mexico C*	*X*	*X*	*X*	*Santiago*	*15*	*59 c*
Athens	29	84	f	Florence	33	91	s	Miami	33	91	s	Seoul	32	90 s
B Aires	23	73	f	Frankfurt	30	86	f	Milan	31	88	s	Sing'por	33	91 f
Bahrain	36	97	s	Funchal	24	75	f	Montreal	21	70	s	St'kholm	19	66 s
Bangkok	*32*	*90*	*f*	*Geneva*	*27*	*81*	*s*	*Moscow*	*14*	*57*	*c*	*Strasb'rg*	*28*	*82 f*
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Munich	27	81	s	Sydney	17	63 s
Barcelona	30	86	s	Helsinki	17	63	f	N Delhi	X	X	X	Tangier	33	91 s
Beirut	28	82	f	Hong K	30	86	s	N York	26	79	f	Tel Aviv	X	X X
Belgrade	26	79	s	*Innsbrck*	*25*	*77*	*f*	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tenerife	29	84 s
Berlin	31	88	s	Istanbul	20	68	s	Naples	32	90	f	Tokyo	23	73 c
Bermuda	29	84	f	Jeddah	37	99	s	Nice	28	82	s	Toronto	22	72 s
Biarritz	25	77	s	Jo'burg	21	70	s	Oslo	25	77	s	Tunis	30	86 f
Borde'x	32	90	s	L Angels	23	73	s	Paris	26	79	s	Valencia	31	88 s
Brussels	25	77	f	L Palmas	26	79	s	Peking	31	88	c	Vanc'ver	23	73 s
Budapst	29	84	s	Le Tquet	21	70	f	Perth	19	66	c	Venice	X	X X
Cairo	33	91	s	Lisbon	26	79	s	Prague	28	82	f	Vienna	29	84 s
Cape Tn	X	X	X	Locarno	26	79	s	Reykjavik	16	59	c	Warsaw	27	81 s
Ch'church	8	46	X	Luxembg	26	79	f	Rhodes	27	81	s	Wash'ton	X	X X
Chicago	23	73	f	Luxor	41	106	s	Rio de J	19	66	f	Wel'ngton	11	52 X
Cologne	27	81	s	Madrid	32	90	s	Riyadh	41	106	s	Zurich	27	81 s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low S will deepen and move northeast, replacing complex low P. High I will drift northeast and build. Low M will change little

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SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997

ADRIAN SHERRATT

David Steene, a director of CMC, which specialises in loans to low-income borrowers, helped to fund William Hague's leadership campaign

Tory donor tied to US fraudsters

DAVID STEENE, the businessman who donated £20,000 to William Hague's Tory leadership campaign, is this weekend revealed to be running a business with links to United States fraudsters.

Mr Steene is managing director of City Mortgage Corporation, the much-criticised lender to people on low incomes. Cityscape, CMC's parent company in the United States was helped onto the Nasdaq market by Abraham Salaman, a convicted stock market manipulator.

And on every loan that it makes in the UK, CMC still pays a commission to Richard Botchman, a businessman who was involved in a property scandal in the United States. When it became apparent in the US that Botchman was a major shareholder in Cityscape, the company's shares plummeted.

This week, CMC agreed to review its entire loan portfolio.

Lenders of last resort, page 27

Markets nervous as FTSE falls 125 points

By Graham Searjeant

WORLD financial markets slithered nervously into another nail-biting weekend as share prices fell sharply in London, New York, Frankfurt and Hong Kong.

The FTSE 100 index of blue chips tumbled 125.5 points to 4,865.8, ending at its worst for the day. The 2.8 per cent fall was proportionately the biggest on one day for eight years.

In New York, bond prices fell back again. In volatile share trading, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 130 points by mid-afternoon to 7,811. In Europe, German share prices ended 3 per cent lower in Frankfurt and Swiss shares shed an average 1.5 per cent in Zurich. Most continental markets were shut for the Feast of the Assumption.

Earlier, the Hang Seng index had fallen 2.4 per cent in Hong Kong. Shares in the HSBC banking group, a top stock in both Hong Kong and London, dropped 7 per cent through the day.

As on the previous Friday, when falls on Wall Street sent jitters round the world, price changes were exaggerated in thin August trading and securities markets took their cue from the foreign exchanges.

The dollar was again weak, particularly against the mark. On Thursday, it had traded at about DM1.84, but quickly fell to DM1.8155, amid unsubstantiated speculation that the Bundesbank had bought marks for dollars, before settling at about DM1.82.

The pound also recovered against the dollar, rising two cents to $1.6093, but fell marginally against the mark. The Sterling Index edged up from 101.8 to 102.1.

Credence was given to another interview with a member of the Bundesbank council, which meets again next week. It confirmed that the German central bank could allow its repo rate to drift up to support the currency. The mark's weakness against a strong dollar lies at the heart of market anxieties.

Pressure on the dollar translated to falls in US Treasury bonds and thence into shares. Europe took its cue from Wall Street, ignoring other signals from the foreign exchanges.

In New York and London at least, the expiry during the day of quarterly share index options also exacerbated price falls. In London, prices had held up early, then dropped suddenly in late morning, suggesting that share values may have been held up artificially earlier in the week.

Securities houses reported no big selling. As before, there was little anxiety in London, as in New York, that shares might be overvalued, making them vulnerable to a change of sentiment and trend.

A sharp contrast was maintained in London between the behaviour of the big internationally traded blue chips, such as leading banks and pharmaceuticals houses, and the main bulk of domestic shares. The FTSE 250, which covers big companies outside the FTSE 100, actually rose on the day, albeit only by 0.17 per cent. The index of small companies also edged up.

BSkyB profits rise to £314m

By Our City Staff

PRE-TAX profits at British Sky Broadcasting rose 22 per cent to £314 million in the year to end June. Shares in the satellite broadcaster, however, fell 33p to 437p.

Sam Chisholm, the BSkyB chief executive who retires in December, said of the profits: "This is an impressive performance. Debt levels have been reduced at a time when the company is investing for the future." He also said that maintaining current profit levels next year would be a "spectacular" achievement, a comment that was initially taken by the market as a profits warning.

Later in the day, the company explained that it fully expected to remain as profitable next year in spite of the digital investment, which will see the launch of about 200 channels and services, including near video-on-demand and home shopping.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, reported a sales rise of 26 per cent to £1.27 billion. The figure was boosted by a £14 million payment from British Digital Broadcasting, the new digital terrestrial broadcaster that is to buy premium channels from BSkyB.

Subscription revenue was up 24 per cent to £1.1 billion, while advertising revenue grew 36 per cent to £150 million as the company added 878,000 direct-to-home and cable subscribers, taking its total to 6.37 million.

Analysts said the results contained no real surprises, though the cost of entertainment channels, up 40 per cent to £90.9 million in the year, was "ballooning". A final dividend of 3.25p, to be paid on November 14, takes the total dividend up 9 per cent to 6p.

WEEKEND
MONEY

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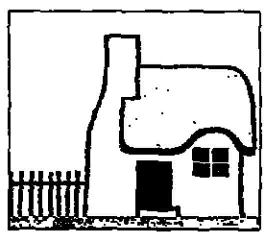

PENSIONS

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When is the right time to start a pension?

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4865.8	(-125.5)
Yield	3.41%	
FTSE All share	2302.40	(-43.92)
Nikkei	19326.09	(+103.41)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7863.52	(-78.51)*
S&P Composite	916.19	(-8.58)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5^{11}/$_{16}$%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	97⅝*	(97^{11}/$_{32}$)
Yield	6.58%*	(6.56%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7^{7}/$_{32}$%	(7^{7}/$_{32}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	114⅝	(114^{27}/$_{32}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6087*	(1.5915)
London:		
$	1.6101	(1.5867)
DM	2.9275	(2.9293)
FFr	9.8648	(9.8112)
SFr	2.4164	(1.4158)
Yen	188.47	(187.06)
£ Index	102.1	(101.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.8230*	(1.8395)
FFr	6.1425*	(6.2025)
SFr	1.5055*	(1.5161)
Yen	117.78*	(117.83)
$ Index	105.4	(105.3)

Tokyo close Yen 118.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	$19.15	($19.20)

GOLD

London close	$324.25	($326.15)

* denotes midday trading price

A&L opens way for special payout

By Robert Miller, banking correspondent

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER has ruled out a foreign purchase with its £800 million cash pile, leaving the way open for a special dividend payout for more than two million shareholders.

Peter White, chief executive of the building society turned bank, said A&L was looking for an acquisition that would add "more profitable customers and more profitable products". He added: "We have no foreign adventures planned."

Alliance & Leicester, which unveiled interim pre-tax profits down 3 per cent at £178 million after conversion costs of £28 million, rewarded 2.4 shareholders with a maiden half-time dividend of 6.4p, payable on October 20. If there is spare money after any acquisitions shareholders could receive a special dividend.

The mortgage and savings arm of Alliance & Leicester contributed £128 million to group profits against £122 million last time. Net new lending soared to £527 million (£131 million), representing a 4.5 per cent market share. Profits from the personal banking division were £42 million (£38 million).

Commercial banking profits, which include Girobank and the group's leasing business, remained unchanged at £30 million.

Tempus, page 28

NIE seeks review over price-setting

By Mark Court

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity is plotting to drag its regulator through the courts in a move that could set a vital precedent in fixing the powers of utility regulators.

NIE yesterday sought a judicial review after Douglas McIldoon, Northern Ireland's electricity regulator, refused to follow the recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC, which acts as umpire in disputes between utilities and regulators, was called in because Mr McIldoon wanted NIE to cut its distribution prices by 30 per cent whereas the company wanted a cut of 22 per cent.

The MMC settled on 25 per cent but Mr McIldoon is insisting on 29 per cent.

Nigel Hawkins, analyst at Yamaichi, said: "This has implications beyond NIE in terms of the whole regulated sector. We have major reviews of water and electricity in the year 2000. Many of them could end up at the MMC so the question is: "Would its rulings be final?"

Utility bosses are following the row with intense interest.

The chief executive of one said: "A regulator has never been tested like this before. It would be much healthier if the whole process was more open, but that would require changes in the law."

Mortgages rise for one in three

By Caroline Merrell

THE mortgage war warmed up after the Halifax, Nationwide and Woolwich, which together provide mortgages for more than a third of Britain's borrowers, announced 0.25 percentage point increases in rates.

The increases are in line with the 0.25 point rise in base rates announced last week. The move by Halifax, the UK's biggest lending institution, will almost certainly be followed by lenders that have not yet announced increases.

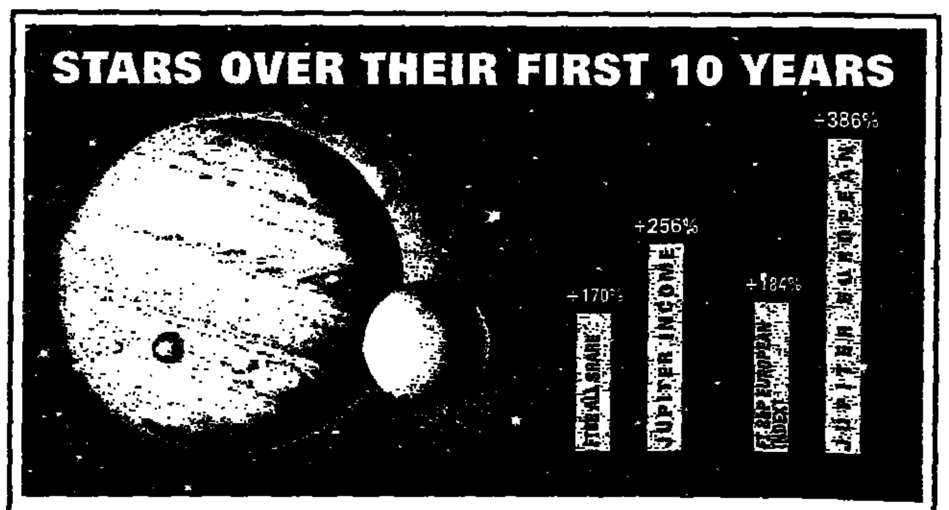
The rises mean that borrowers with the Halifax, now a bank, will have to pay interest rates of 8.45 per cent, a rate matched later by the Woolwich. Borrowers with the Nationwide Building Society, which last month fought to stay mutual, will pay a lower rate of 8.1 per cent.

A Halifax borrower with a £50,000 interest-only loan will now pay £320 a month, an increase of £9.48. A borrower with an identical mortgage from Nationwide will pay £307 a month — an annual saving over the Halifax of £156.

Nationwide is offering lower mortgage rates than its main rivals as part of a £200 million bid to promote mutuality. The mortgage rates of Abbey National, Cheltenham & Gloucester, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich are all in line with the rates offered by the Halifax. Nationwide also claims that its mutual status will allow it to offer better savings rates.

The rate rise is the fourth since the change of Government. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the bank, says base rates may rise further because about a quarter of the UK's ten million borrowers have fixed-rate loans, making rate rises less effective in controlling inflation.

STARS OVER THEIR FIRST 10 YEARS



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Bar chart: *Offer to bid, net income reinvested 1.8.87–1.8.97. Source: Micropal †Excluding UK. Five year performance to 1.8.97: Jupiter Income +233% (1st out of 80 sector funds); FTSE All Share +137%; Jupiter European + 239% (2nd out of 108 sector funds); FTS&P European Index +163.0%; offer to bid, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal.

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Grosvenor slims board as earnings slump

By Dominic Walsh

GROSVENOR INNS, the pub operator headed by Tim Thwaites, is to shed three directors as a result of its decision to concentrate on the Slug and Lettuce chain and offload its other pubs.

The casualties are Roger Looker and Colin Herridge, founder directors, and David Bruce, creator of the popular Firkin pub chain who joined Grosvenor four years ago. The news came as the group reported a slump in pre-tax profits from £2 million to just £867,000 in the 12 months to May 31, from turnover up 22 per cent to £23.8 million. Earnings per share dived from 10.8p to 3.7p.

The shares, trading above 220p earlier this year, shed 13½p to 156½p yesterday. Nigel Parson, analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, said: "I think they've probably got another 12 months to prove themselves. If they don't do it, then someone else will do it for them."

The sharp fall in profits was largely the result of an exceptional loss of £1.2 million on disposals. Since the company said that it would focus on Slug and Lettuce at its interims, it has sold the Bar Central restaurant chain and offloaded five leases on premises owned by Inntrepreneur.

Yesterday it unveiled the sale for £1.9 million of four units to a consortium including Messrs Looker and Herridge and Philip Snook, formerly of The Magic Pub Company. It has a further 21 sites worth up to £10 million still to sell, including six Hedgehog & Hogshead pubs.

Gary Pettet, managing director, said the results represented "a year of transition", and the departure of the three non-executives followed the decision to slim down the company.

The plan is to pump disposal proceeds into rapid expansion of Slug and Lettuce, which increased profits 22.5 per cent to £2.3 million on sales a quarter better at £11.5 million. Like-for-like sales were up 21 per cent.

Currently there are 17 Slug and Lettuces and a further ten are in the pipeline. Average capital expenditure is £500,000 per site.

The final dividend of 3.35p, payable on November 15, makes 6.38p, a rise of 10 per cent on 1996.

Stricken Wace in urgent talks with banks

By Fraser Nelson

WACE, the printing and imaging company, has entered emergency talks with its bankers after returning a pre-tax loss of £56.8 million (£4.21 million profit) at the halfway stage, with debts spiralling to £53 million.

A series of financial disasters across almost all of its operations, culminating with a £52.1 million writedown and loss on disposals in the US, forced a loss per share of 72.5p (1.4p earnings) in the six months to June 30.

The company admitted that it has broken some of its banking covenants, but said it has high hopes of pacifying its creditors — although it has given up plans to sell its American division.

Stephen Puckett, finance director, said that it has taken the US business off the auction block after realising the potential bidders were not prepared to pay anywhere near the price it was hoping for.

He added that the mass exodus of sales staff in the first half, which plunged the US operation into crisis, had begun to reverse. He said: "Staff are coming back to us because what they realise is that we are the market leader in the US, and that we are the only international pre-press group in the world."

Its shares, which have already plunged from 105p to 35p this year alone, dropped another 25 per cent to a new low of 27½p.

The mood in the City was one of devastation, with some analysts claiming they had been deliberately misled over the bank's position with its banking covenants.

The position of Trevor Grice, its chief executive, who rescued the company from near collapse four years ago, was also drawn into question.

One analyst said: "Mr Grice told us that if the shares did not get back to 200p, he would be a monkey's uncle. Those that believed him will be absolutely furious now.

"They repeatedly told us they were not breaking banking covenants, and now they turn around and tell us exactly the opposite. This completely shatters trust and makes the management look like idiots."

The company said that further writedowns were likely at its Paris and Manchester operations.

On an operating level, the loss was £2.8 million (£10.1 million profit). The interim dividend is suspended (1.85p).

Tempus, page 28

Sears move to cost 950 jobs

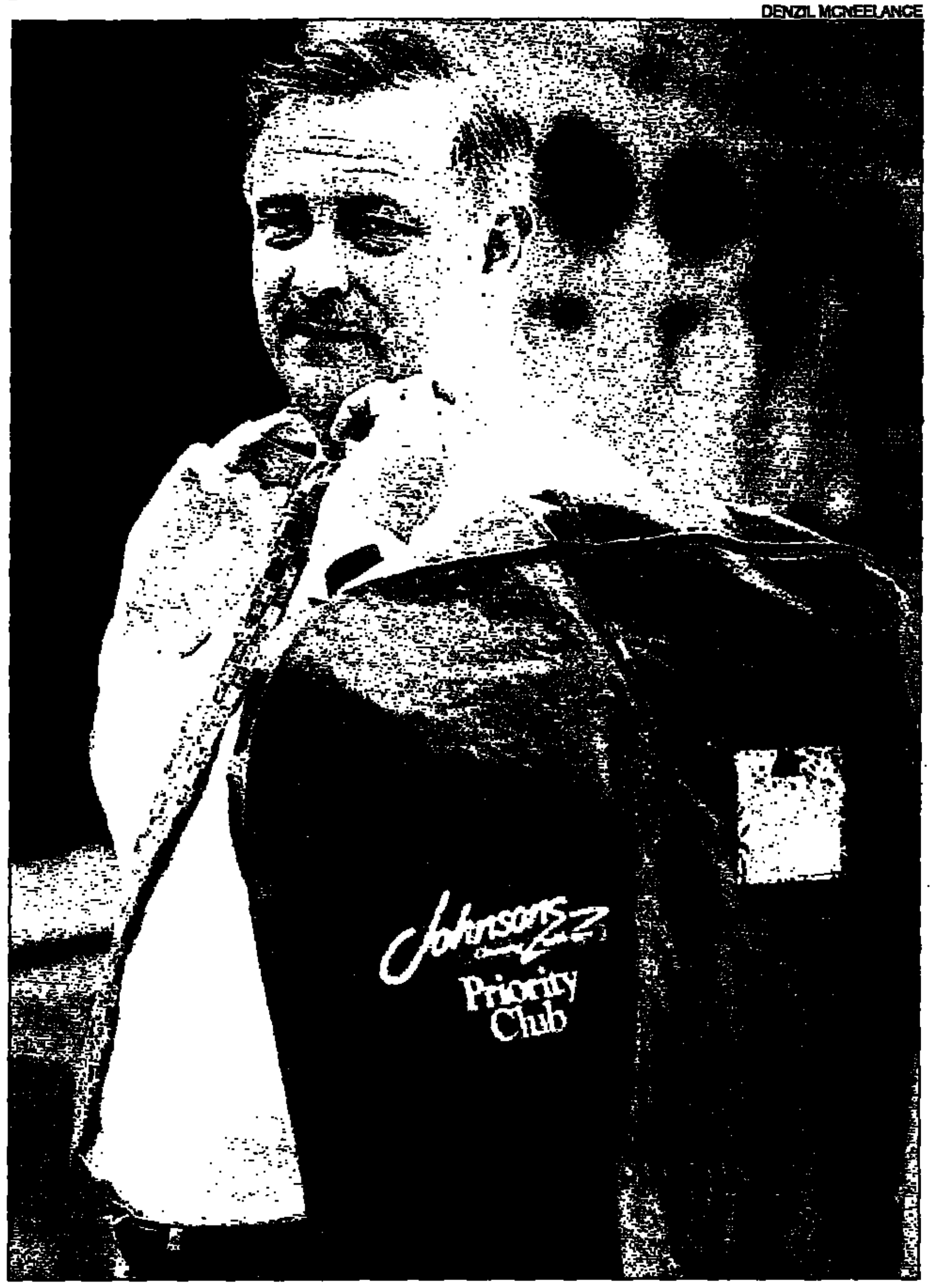
By Sarah Cunningham

SEARS, the troubled retail group, is to quit the department stores shoe concessions business with the loss of up to 950 jobs.

It announced yesterday that it is selling about 65 of its British Shoe Corporation department store concessions to Shoe Studio, the British subsidiary of Nine West, the US-based shoe group. Nine West is paying £9 million for the assets, which are valued at £11 million. If buyers cannot be found for the remaining 150 concessions, they will be closed next January. The 800 jobs at the concessions bought by Nine West are guaranteed.

Sears promised decisions on the rest of the shoe brands — Dolcis, Cable & Co, Shoe Express and Shoe City — this year.

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



Johnson Group Cleaners is in talks to sell eight loss-making US shops. It sold 14 in the first half. Richard Zerny, chief executive, reported pre-tax profit in the half year to June 28 was £8.61 million (£9.25 million). Sales were up 3.1 per cent to £95 million and earnings per share were 11.96p (11.21p). An interim payout of 3p (2.9p) is due on October 1.

Flextech reduces losses at half time

By Eric Reguly

FLEXTECH, the second-largest provider of cable and satellite television programming, cut its losses substantially as the subscription-TV market continued its rapid growth.

The company, which is controlled by Tele-Communications International, the overseas investment arm of Tele-Communications Inc, America's largest cable company, reported a pre-tax loss of £5.1 million for the half year to June 30 (£12 million loss), on turnover up 80 per cent to £44.6 million.

The results included exceptional items of £3.5 million, which included the cost of relaunching The Family Channel and a £2 million loss on the sale of Action Stations. Before exceptional items, the pre-tax loss was £1.7 million (£7.8 million loss).

Flextech said that its new joint venture with the BBC, which acquired the UK Gold channel, is already profitable. A second joint venture with the BBC, which will develop eight new basic subscription channels, is not expected to become profitable for several years. Roger Luard, chief executive, said three of the eight channels — Style, Arena and Horizons — are to be launched by the end of the year.

Flextech said its channels — Bravo and Playboy TV among them — are becoming more popular.

Tempus, page 28

Pearson sells medical publisher

By Eric Reguly

PEARSON sold its Churchill Livingstone medical publisher, whose best-known title is *Gray's Anatomy*, to an American publisher yesterday as part of its strategy of abandoning businesses in which it has little chance of becoming a market leader.

Pearson sold Churchill Livingstone, which was part of the Pearson Professional division, to Harcourt General for $92.5 million (£57.8 million), and is expected to sell other titles in the division. Based on the Churchill Livingstone sale price, equivalent to about twice its annual sales of $47.8 million, the remaining titles are probably worth close to $250 million.

Churchill Livingstone, which dates back to 1812, was bought by Pearson in the late 1960s and publishes more than 1,500 books and CD-Roms, and 70 journals. The company's products are aimed at medical students, clinicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals. *Gray's Anatomy* was first published in 1858 and is in its 38th edition.

The sale comes as no surprise. Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of Pearson, said earlier this month that offers were being considered for Churchill Livingstone. Pearson intends to concentrate on higher-margin titles and businesses within Pearson Professional, such as the *Investors Chronicle*, a magazine for shareholders, and business management training publications.

An analyst at Salomon Brothers said that the City is expecting Pearson to sell more Pearson Professional titles within the next year or so. "It's really not a big business," he said. "They really should get out of it."

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ABI Leisure issues red warning

By Dominic Walsh

SHARES in ABI Leisure, the UK's largest caravan-maker, fell from 65p to 38p after ABI said that mismanagement of foreign currency transactions would push the group into the red in the year to August 31.

ABI said: "These losses had not previously been identified due to incorrect management information." David Carrick has resigned as chief executive and George Shiels, non-executive chairman, becomes executive chairman.

In addition, a director of ABI Caravans, its principal operating subsidiary, has been suspended pending investigations into the currency losses by Price Waterhouse, the group's firm of auditors. It said it did not expect to pay a final dividend.

Portmeirion fails to impress City

By Chris Ayres

INVESTORS began to bale out of Portmeirion yesterday after it failed to meet market expectations, despite reporting a 9.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the half year from £2.5 million to £2.7 million.

The pottery comany, which exports to about 60 countries, saw its share price fall 65p to close at 430p, after it said it did not expect to improve on last year's performance.

Brett Phillips, Portmeirion's finance director, said: "In the UK we have really suffered and we have lost retail space at the hands of our competitors. "The rest of Europe was a disaster area for us, owing not everything but much to the strength of sterling."

The company, based in Stoke-on-Trent, saw turnover rise 6.2 per cent from £15.2 million to £16.1 million, while earnings per share rose 9.2 per cent from 15.85p to 17.31p. Sales in the US rose by 21 per cent, while sales in the UK slumped by 8.3 per cent.

Portmeirion now plans to win back retail space in department stores such as Debenhams, John Lewis and Harrods by improving its display stands.

"If the display stands are right the products sell, and we take that as a fact," said Mr Phillips. "We are now starting a programme to get merchandisers on the shop floor so they can check that out products are being displayed in the right way."

The interim dividend, due on October 3, is held at 3.3p.

Conran thinks smaller

By Dominic Walsh

Conran: London sated

LONDON'S appetite for mega-restaurants is well and truly sated, according to the man who brought the capital the likes of Quaglino's, Mezzo and Bluebird.

Speaking on tomorrow's Citytalk programme on LWT, Sir Terence Conran admits that the market for the likes of the 700-seat Mezzo has reached saturation point.

"We wouldn't do another large restaurant in the centre of London," he tells the programme. "The centre of London we think is more or less filled up with good large restaurants."

Sir Terence, whose London restaurant empire now spans eight eateries with total turnover close to £60 million, has another four openings in London in the pipeline, but none has more than 120 seats. The end of this month will see the opening of the Zinc Bar & Grill just off Regent Street, a smaller informal concept that is expected to be developed into a UK-wide chain.

The only mega-restaurants planned will form part of Sir Terence's nascent foreign expansion programme.

The first, a Quaglino's-style brasserie, will be in New York, near Manhattan's 59th Street. He is also hoping to secure a site in Paris.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bunzl shares hit high after US acquisition

BUNZL, the paper and plastics group, dipped into the US market again yesterday for an $88 million (£55 million) acquisition that won approval from the City and pushed the shares to a 1997 high. Bunzl is buying the loss-making grocery packaging arm of Unisource Worldwide, the US paper group. It has annual sales of around $300 million, but made a loss of $0.5 million in the year to September 30, 1996. In the nine months to June 30, 1997, it lost $2.9 million. The net assets total about $60 million.

Anthony Habgood, Bunzl chairman, said the division had not been a priority for Unisource. He said the business will be integrated into Bunzl Distribution USA. The deal adds more than 20 per cent to Bunzl's US sales. In its existing grocery business, Bunzl enjoys pre-tax profit margins of 7 per cent. Mr Habgood said: "We have confidence we can get [the Unisource division] into the 6 to 7 per cent range." Panmure Gordon, Bunzl's house broker, expects the Unisource division to be profitable in 1999, with the potential of $21 million annual profits. Bunzl, which earlier this year announced it was buying American Filtrona Corporation, saw its shares close at 238½, up from 227p. Tempus, page 28

Invesco hints at bid

INVESCO ASSET MANAGEMENT joined the scrap over the future of Saracen Value, the smaller companies investment trust, yesterday by saying it may make an offer for the entire fund. HSBC Asset Management has been pushing to remove the current managers, SFM, claiming it would do a better and cheaper job. Invesco, part of the Amvesco group, said yesterday: "Invesco may in the near future submit proposals to the board of Saracen which may or may not lead to an offer being made for the entire issued share capital of Saracen." The move raises the possibility of investors being returned some or all of their capital.

Greystone talks off

SHARES in Greystone, the engineering and distribution business, halved to 39½p yesterday, when it said takeover talks had been abandoned less than 24 hours after telling shareholders they were continuing. John Hall, Greystone's chief executive, who was appointed only two weeks ago, would not comment on the reasons for the conflicting announcements. However, he did not rule out the possibility of a new bid from another company. Mr Hall said the business would meanwhile continue to concentrate on its lighting and automotive distribution arm while negotiating the sale of its engineering division.

Treats profits frozen

THE wettest June this century failed to stop Treats selling ice creams and lollipops during the 26 six weeks to June 28, with the group raising turnover by 5.6 per cent from £12.7 million to £13.4 million. The company also said it had recently signed deals with Martins, Forbuoys and Woolworths, which would provide more than 1,000 new outlets for its products. However, the company's pre-tax profits were static at £1.52 million, and the group said it did not expect to report full-year profits ahead of last year's. The company's share price slipped 11p to 101½p after the announcement. An unchanged dividend of 1.5p will be paid on October 15.

Reshuffle at Kingfisher

KINGFISHER, the retail conglomerate, has appointed Jim Glover, deputy managing director of Woolworths, to run Superdrug. The move follows the recent resignation of Superdrug's managing director, Graham Steele, for personal reasons. Roger Holmes, current finance systems and supply chain director at B&Q, will take over the position vacated by Mr Glover at Woolworths and will then become managing director of Woolworths when Roger Jones, who currently does the job, retires next spring. Mr Holmes joined Kingfisher in 1994 as B&Q's finance director. He was previously a partner at McKinsey & Co.

Sterling hits AP results

AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS, the unquoted engineering plc that sold its AP Pressings business to James Dickie for £1.3 million earlier this year, reported a dramatic fall in interim profits yesterday. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30slumped to £1.2 million from £5 million last time. The company has fallen victim to the strength of sterling, an increased tax charge and reorganisation costs and gave warning of further suffering in the second half. It said: "With sterling likely to remain strong in the short term, trading in the second half of 1997 will remain difficult and the results will include further rationalisation expense to reduce costs."

Burger King expansion

GOWRINGS, the Berkshire-based motor dealership and fast-food group, has acquired a site for its 23rd Burger King franchise. The company is to spend about £500,000 taking on the lease and fitting out the premises in Coventry's Central Six retail park. The group, which reports its interim results on September 1, also announced yesterday that it had arranged a new unsecured £10 million overdraft and term loan through National Westminster Bank that will enable it to continue expanding at the rate of about five Burger King outlets a year. It is currently developing a recently acquired site at Poole in Dorset.

African Gold declines

THE crisis in confidence in the gold market is costing African Gold, the Zimbabwe gold mining company, more than $50,000 a day, according to John Teeling, the chairman. However, he said that if the price of gold continued to fall, many high-cost mines in Canada, America and South Africa would become unprofitable, while African Gold would stay in the black. The forecast came as African Gold reported a 32 per cent fall in pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, from £375,000 to £255,000, with earnings per share also falling, from 0.38p to 0.25p. The company said it had expanded ore reserves to 1.5 million tons, containing more than 450,000 ounces of gold.

[illegible]

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.27	2.10
Austria Sch	21.80	19.94
Belgium Fr	63.71	58.75
Canada $	2.380	2.172
Cyprus Cyp£	0.905	0.833
Denmark Kr	11.74	10.85
Finland Mkk	9.33	8.58
France Fr	10.3	9.56
Germany Dm	3.09	2.85
Greece Dr	485	448
Hong Kong $	13.26	12.06
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.15	1.06
Israel Shk	5.97	5.32
Italy Lira	3039	2802
Japan Yen	204.03	188.50
Malta	0.673	0.614
Netherlds Gld	3.468	3.194
New Zealand $	2.67	2.43
Norway Kr	12.79	11.85
Portugal Esc	309.53	287.50
S Africa Rd	8.26	7.30
Spain Pta	259.25	240.50
Sweden Kr	13.61	12.61
Switzerland Fr	2.57	2.35
Turkey Lira	272782	252914
USA $	1.715	1.572

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
POWER STRUGGLE
‘The dispute developed because United Utilities finds itself in the unusual position of trying to oust its own chairman against his will. As the company has discovered, ejecting a chairman by force is no easy matter.’
Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow

THE LENDER OF LAST RESORT

Tory links of British loan firm tied to proven US fraudsters

Gavin Lumsden unmasks the web of dubious connections behind a mortgage company driving scores of Britons towards bankruptcy

City Mortgage Corporation lends to the borrowers that other lenders *do not* want. It charges *punitive rates of interest* and has generated a storm of protest over its lending practices. This week it agreed to review its entire loan portfolio.

But it is questionable whether it can change its attitude towards the money-lending business. For while its managing *director David Steene* would like to be seen as a pillar of the community — and even donated £20,000 to William Hague's campaign for the Tory leadership — *the company is* connected with a cast of characters that might have been invented by Damon Runyon. Among the American businessmen who lie behind CMC's parent company are people with criminal records. In the UK, the company is linked with brokers who have had their credit licences *removed in the past*.

Yet this company, which has already been forced to change some of its lending practices after government intervention, maintains *links into the Conservative* Party. Stewart Pollock, a researcher to James Clappison, a former Environment Under-Secretary in the last government, was found to have distributed pro-CMC propaganda in the House of Commons.

Mr Clappison says that he has now stripped Mr Pollock of his House of Commons pass, but Mr Pollock, *who is employed* as a consultant to CMC, remains a director of the Conservative Friends of Israel, an organisation with a strong and influential membership which includes *William Hague and* James Clappison, as well as David Steene.

David Steene set up CMC in 1995 as the UK subsidiary of Cityscape, the US *company. It has proved highly successful at tapping* into the profitable and relatively unregulated UK lending market. CMC has grown into this country's largest "non-standard" lender, *specialising in loans to people* with poor credit ratings who are unable to get finance from traditional lenders. In the last quarter it made a $15.7 million (£9.8 million) gain from selling its loans.

However, CMC has come under fire for the level of interest rates, fees and redemption penalties that it levies on its loans, as well as the predatory selling tactics *of its brokers. These provoked the Office of Fair* Trading to launch an inquiry into the company. Last month, under pressure from Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, the *OFT outlawed the worst of these practices in the in*dustry. CMC has implemented the OFT guidelines on new loans but has done nothing as yet about existing borrowers. Instead, David *Steene, the managing direc*tor, this week announced a review of all its UK loans and promised to investigate any evidence of malpractice by the company or its brokers.

If the cases we highlight below are typical, Mr Steene, who earned just under $1 million (£625,000) last year, may find he needs to radically restructure CMC's portfolio. A near-blind *taxidriver does not constitute* a good *credit risk for any* lender, but there is just such an individual now finding it impossible to meet the payments CMC is demanding on his loan.

*The company uses a net*work of brokers to find its business, and several of these are accused of selling loans to individuals who simply do not have the earning capacity *to service them. Such loans will, inevitably, go bad but* CMC *manages to make its* money by selling on a portfolio of loans to other financiers, taking its profits on the deal at a relatively early stage.

We have found that one of CMC's "master brokers", Capital Credit in Truro, Cornwall, is run by individuals who have already been directors of eight firms that were *effectively closed down* by the OFT for their lending practices.

This year Capital Credit has threatened to repossess the home of a paraplegic in *Plymouth (see below)*. The firm has long-standing connections *with David Steene and Martin Brand*, CMC's lending director. The pair used to run Northmount Securities, a north London finance company that dealt with Capital Credit's director, *Anthony Murtagh, in the* early 1990s.

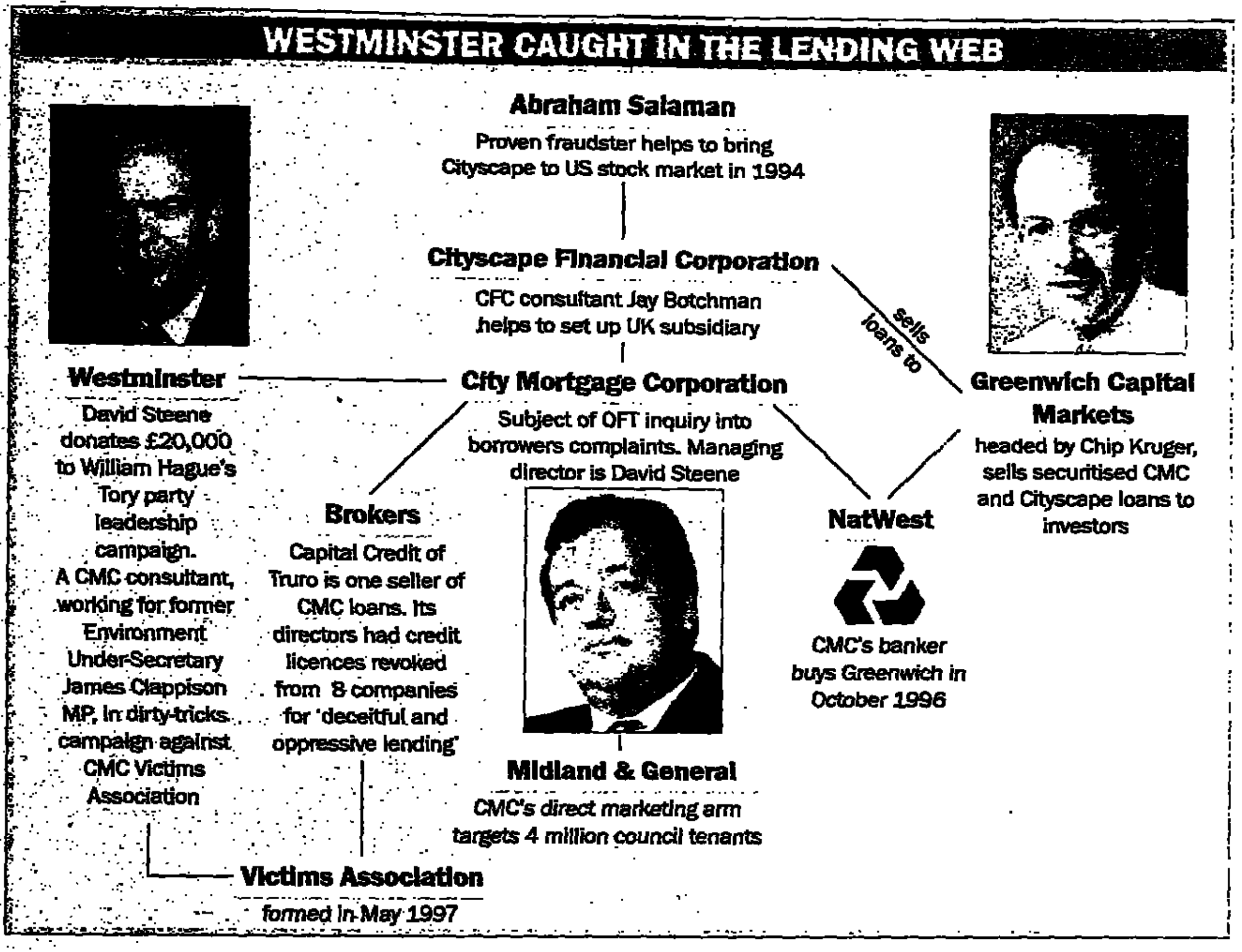
In the United States there is growing uneasiness over the activities of Cityscape and its UK subsidiary. *Moody's, a US agency* which rates bonds, has recently downgraded the group's corporate debt in reaction to the OFT's move and the rising *number of its loans that it* says are more than 90 days in arrears. Cityscape disputes Moody's figures and says that its foreclosure rates are reducing.

Mr Steene is a former Conservative councillor in Hertsmere, Hertfordshire, where his local MP is James Clappison. In early 1996 the DoE, where Mr Clappison was under-secretary, approved CMC as a lender on *the Government's right-to-buy scheme, just one year* after the company was incorporated. This opened the way to thousands of new customers, many of whom *would be vulnerable to ap*proaches from a lender such as CMC. Mr Clappison insists that he passed the application to colleagues to avoid any conflict of interest and had nothing further to do with it.

Cityscape and CMC have been fast-movers. It was only April 1994 when Cityscape floated on the US Nasdaq stock exchange. Central to *the flotation was Abraham* Salaman, a convicted US stock manipulator, who helped Cityscape to merge with a shell company called Mandi of Essex.

Shortly after that, David Steene met Jay Botchman, a consultant to Cityscape with an unfortunate business record in the US, and with his help, launched the UK *end of the operation*.

WESTMINSTER CAUGHT IN THE LENDING WEB


Abraham Salaman
Proven fraudster helps to bring Cityscape to US stock market in 1994
Cityscape Financial Corporation
CFC consultant Jay Botchman helps to set up UK subsidiary
sells loans to
City Mortgage Corporation
Subject of OFT inquiry into borrowers complaints. Managing director is David Steene
Westminster
David Steene donates £20,000 to William Hague's Tory party leadership campaign.
A CMC consultant, working for former Environment Under-Secretary James Clappison MP, in dirty-tricks campaign against CMC Victims Association
Brokers
Capital Credit of Truro is one seller of CMC loans. Its directors had credit licences revoked from 8 companies for 'deceitful and oppressive lending'
Greenwich Capital Markets
headed by Chip Kruger, sells securitised CMC and Cityscape loans to investors
NatWest
CMC's banker buys Greenwich in October 1996
Midland & General
CMC's direct marketing arm targets 4 million council tenants
Victims Association
formed in May 1997

You can judge a company by the company that it keeps

David Steene, managing director of CMC. Total pay package last year: $1 million. A solicitor, Mr Steene is a *former Conservative councillor* for Hertsmere Borough Council. He became involved in the lending market in 1980 and has sat on the board of *numerous lending companies, including* Northmount Securities, a firm that employed Martin Brand (now CMC's director of lending). Much of his business came *through Anthony Murtagh*, a broker now at Capital Credit. With Gerald Epstein, now CMC's finance director, he met Jay Botchman in 1994.

☐ Capital Credit of Truro. A master broker for CMC run by Anthony Murtagh and Roy Leslie Clayton. Both were directors of eight companies associated with Richard Murtagh (Anthony's father) Holdings, whose consumer credit licences were withdrawn by the Office of Fair Trading in 1989 for deceitful *and oppressive lending. Capi*tal Credit, *formerly* Carrox, won an appeal and survived.

☐ James Clappison, Conservative MP for Hertsmere. A *former underwriter at Lloyd's* of London. Mr Clappison's constituency takes in Watford where CMC is based. In 1996 the Department for the Environment put CMC on its list of approved lenders for the *Government's right-to-buy* programme. Mr Clappison says he passed the application to colleagues and had no further involvement.

☐ *Stewart Pollock.* Researcher to James Clappison; also fundraiser and director of Conservative Friends of Israel, a lobby group whose members include Mr Clappison, David Steene and William Hague. *Has been a consultant* for CMC since 1995. Last month he distributed negative material to MPs concerning Carol Riley, the organiser of a successful *anti*-CMC campaign. After a complaint by Paul Flynn, a Labour MP, he apologised to the House. *Mr Clappison has withdrawn his researcher's pass.*

☐ Abraham Salaman. Convicted stock manipulator who helped Cityscape, CMC's US parent company, to launch on *the Nasdaq stock exchange in* April 1994. The Securities and Exchange Commission, the US regulator of stock markets, fined Mr Salaman and *banned him from the securi*ties business for three years in 1974 for his involvement in the Magic Marker fraud. Mr Salaman received Cityscape *stock as reward for his role in* the flotation. *Last summer* he sold 72,000 Cityscape shares in two deals, the second at $32 a share against the launch price of $1 per share. Cityscape says *that Mr Salaman* has had no subsequent involvement with the company and is not a significant shareholder.

☐ Jay *Botchman.* Former consultant to Cityscape who was instrumental in establishing CMC, its UK subsidiary. He still receives a fee from every loan originated in the UK. *Mr Botchman is an* associate of John Peter Galanis, currently serving a 25-year sentence in a New York jail for masterminding a property development scam in Atlantic City. Mr *Botchman sold on the non-existent* property partnerships to investors. He has never been convicted and claims he was a victim of the fraud too. Mr Botchman has been active in the US lending *market* for years; one of his companies, Alliance Funding, securitised loans for Cityscape. When it was revealed last year that he owned 15 per cent of the stock, the share price collapsed. Cityscape says he has sold all his holdings and has never had a day-to-day management role in the company. However, concerns about his influence remain.

Critics claim agents target clients who will fall behind

City Mortgage Corporation and Cityscape both distribute a large number of their loans through brokers, paying up to 10 per cent of the value of the loans in commission upfront. Concerns have been *raised on both sides of the Atlantic that* these agents target those who will be unable to repay the loans so as to repossess their houses. Here we highlight four cases involving alleged *broker malpractice. All the borrowers are alleging* extortion against the lenders. CMC refused to discuss the cases claiming to do so would infringe the Data Protection Act.

A 73-year-old pensioner *in the North of England* is fighting repossession against CMC. In 1995 the former BR employee, whose monthly income was £400, had problems paying the mortgage to his bank. He *approached Latham Finance*, a broker in Newcastle-under-Lyme, after seeing its advert in a national paper and inquired about a remortgage. The man, who is partially sighted, claims a *Latham employee told him to state he* was a taxi driver earning £20,000 a year and encouraged him to sign documents without reading them. Even on CMC's so-called prompt payment scheme the man ended up paying £344 a month and £200 more *if he was late. By November 1995 he was £1,633.50 in arrears.*

The Times has previously highlighted the plight of a Latham Finance client. Jennifer Carnegie (pictured), manager of a nursery in Romford, Essex, claimed the broker never explained the redemption penalty. She tried to sell her house for £58,000 to repay the loan early only to find the penalty had risen to £60,000.

The third case involves Capital Credit, the master broker in Truro. Its directors have been involved in firms closed down by the OFT. Last year a 59-year-old paraplegic with severe head injuries from a road accident *12 years ago, was in difficulty with his £20,000 Halifax mortgage.* Needing £3,000, he responded to a newspaper advertisement from Midland & General, a Wolverhampton finance company (bought by CMC in May and now the centre of CMC's direct marketing operations.) His call was passed to Capital Credit *and a representative* called at his specially converted three-bedroom terrace house in Plymouth in November. He lives on £629 a month from income support and disability benefit and claims the representative persuaded him to transfer his mortgage and debts to CMC. He signed up for a 25-year mortgage of £32,500 and was given a £3,000 cashback. *Almost at once* he was in arrears. By February he was more than £800 in debt and CMC was threatening repossession. He was saved only by the intervention of his carer, who paid the debt and sought legal advice.

Although refusing *to comment on the details*, David Steene, CMC's managing director, insists that his company vets and monitors its brokers. "There are, as in any business, individual complaints from customers that unfortunately arise at the time *of a borrower's default. It is an* easy defence to say *my* broker did x, y or z, but the fact that a director of a *company lost his licence* does not *mean* he is guilty of anything in so far as the company [Capital Credit] with which we trade has a licence ... So far, I am not aware of any action against the company by the OFT, and our own *internal monitoring does not reveal anything of a material nature which causes* us to have *concern*."

An equally ugly case is battling its way through the US courts. Grover and Maimie Belcher, a couple from New York State, are fighting repossession of their home by the Chemical Bank, which bought their loan from Alliance Funding, a *company run by Jay Botchman*, the former Cityscape consultant. The couple allege they are victims of a predatory lending scheme. In January 1991, three years before Cityscape floated, the couple were called on by three men claiming to be *representatives of the firm. At the time they ran* a child care business from their home and earned about $1,300 a month. The couple expressed interest in an $8,000 home improvement loan. The next *month* they were told they had been approved for $85,000. The couple's solicitor claims that Robert Grosser, Cityscape's chief executive, personally authorised the *increased loan once the com*pany had appraised the value of the home. Within two days they were driven to the offices of Fink Weinberger to close the deal. Fink Weinberger was the *law firm of* Asher Fensterheim, a *non-executive* director with Cityscape. The Belchers claim there was no attempt to explain that the interest rate would be 18 per cent, that monthly pay*ment would be $1,400 or that* nearly 17 per cent of the loan would go in charges, including $4,250 to Cityscape and $6,800 to Countrywide Capital, a mortgage broker with whom it had *an agreement. After signing* documents they were given a cheque and taken to the offices of Regency Remodeling, a home improvement company, to *whom they were persuaded to* hand over the money. This company finally built a fence and returned $40,000 to the Belchers. Over the next 18 months before they fell into arrears and Chemical Bank started repossession, *the Belchers paid out* a total of $33,000. By the end they still owed $84,000.

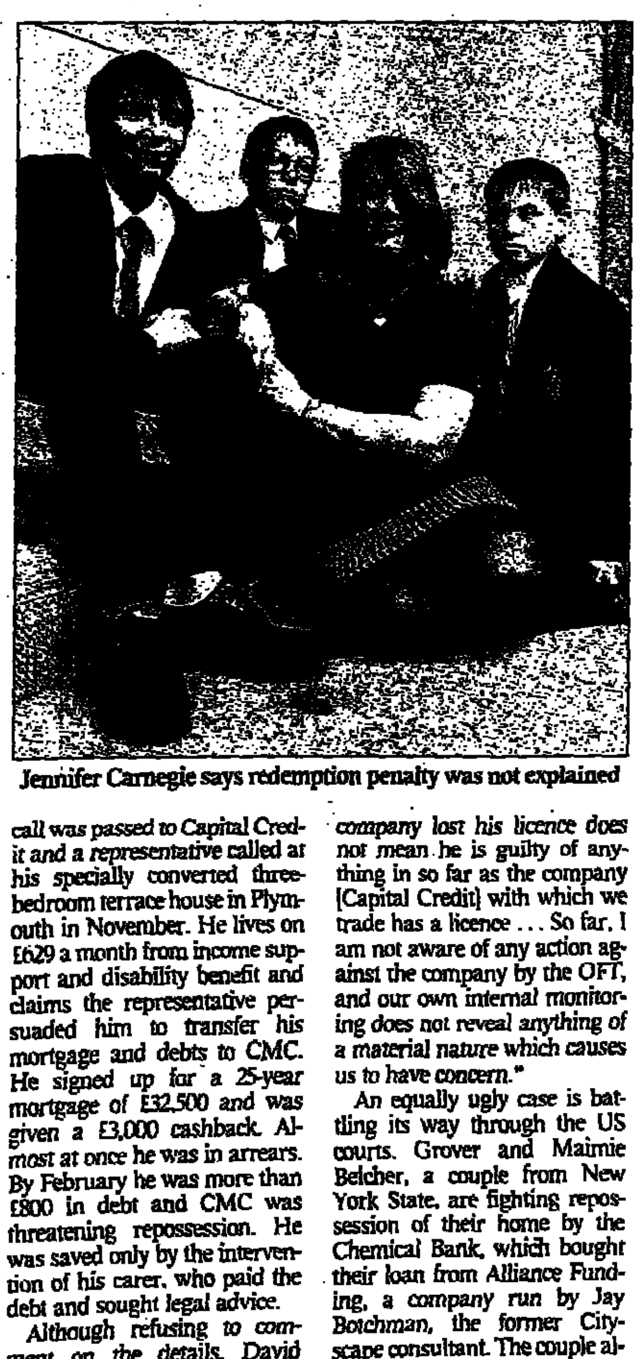
Amazingly, three years later, this loan was still listed as part of the package of debt bought by the Chemical Bank.

Cityscape said the Belcher case *was unique and that the* loan *was not a typical one*. It says it has stopped doing business with Countrywide. However, Howard Gosin, the officer at Countrywide at the time of the Belcher loan now runs a company called All States Consulting and is still doing business with Cityscape.

In an echo *of Capital Credit* in the UK, Coastal Credit, *another important US broker* for Cityscape, is run by Mitchell and Melvin Gale, officers in Dartmouth Funding, a finance company that surrendered its licence in March 1990 after being sued *for fraud* by the Connecticut and New York State Attorney Generals.

Cityscape says the US market is heavily regulated and that it only uses licensed and registered brokers.

THE VICTIMS



Jennifer Carnegie says redemption penalty was not explained

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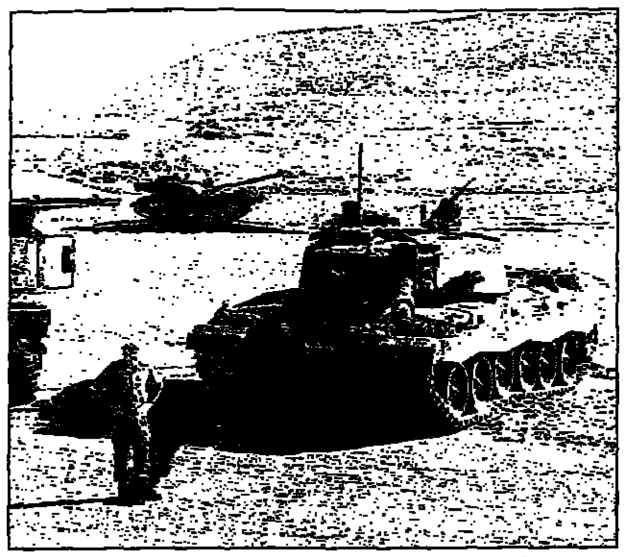
STOCK MARKET CLARE STEWART

Second liners once again mop up buyers' cash



Under fire: defence stocks were rattled by an audit report

THE stock market began the *week bracing itself for* a bloodbath. It failed to materialise until yesterday when shares registered a hefty 125.5 point fall, wiping £25 billion off prices.

Several reasons were advanced to explain the sharp turnaround. They ranged *from the mid-morning options* expiry to concerns over a sell-off on Wall Street. Added into the mix was a hot Friday in mid-August, with relatively few active in the market.

One dealer said: "It was a reaction people had been looking for and the options expiry *triggered the move.*"

Others were surprised by *the size of the fall. Another* dealer said: "A massive overreaction and overdone." In spite of talk of profit-taking he added there was little sign of stock in search of buyers.

Notable casualties dragging the FTSE lower included **HSBC**, which dropped 166½p to £21.67½, after an overnight fall in Hong Kong.

The rot set in yesterday after the options expiry and the *market was left without sup*port. With the opening fall on Wall Street, there was little to bolster confidence.

By the close the FTSE had fallen to 4,865.8, with the Dow Jones industrial average nursing a fall of 122.6. With few FTSE 100 stocks making progress, it was left to second liners once again to mop up buyers' cash. *The FTSE 250* closed 8.3 points higher at 4,698.2.

Banks ended lower, while drinks groups again attracted attention.

The beginning of the football season brought the quoted clubs back on to the pitch, while exporters gained during the week from sterling's weakness against the dollar and the mark.

Overall, volumes remained relatively thin with only about *730 million shares traded.*

The figure was boosted by a placing of 69 million shares in **Sears**, the retail group that includes Selfridges, at 58p. The whispers were of stake-building moves by PDFM.

Sears shares ended 2p lower at 59½p. The group also announced the sale of 65 of its British Shoe Corporation concessions for £9 million.

Among the worst perform*ers in the top 100 shares was* **AB Foods**, down 38½p to *498½p, with speculation re*surfacing about its interest in **Tate & Lyle**. The sugar group closed off just ½p at 418½p. **Unilever** was also a heavy loser after recent broker comment, *ending down 72½p at* £17.82½p.

Among the few blue chip stocks bucking the trend was **Hanson**, which rallied after results on Thursday. The price rose 16p in early trading, but ended just 2p ahead to 306p.

Utilities offered a safer haven in the market turbulence, with **National Grid** putting on 6p to 256p, while **ScottishPower** after early rises closed unchanged at 429p. **Wessex Water** rose 8½p to 485½p.

Northern Ireland Electricity rose 8½p to 444½p after it said that it would seek a judicial review over the refusal *by the Director-General of* Electricity Supply for North*ern Ireland to accept the* decision of the MMC on price controls. **Alliance & Leicester** provided some cheer among the banks as it rose 8p to 620p after results. **Royal Bank of Scotland** *moved up 1p to 602p.*

Among second liners, **Bunzl**, *the paper and packag*ing group, led the way with an 11½p rise to 238½p, a rise of more than 5 per cent. The increase came after the acquisition of Grocery Supply Sys*tems in the US.* Demand for the Series 5 computer was also said to be lifting **Psion**, which rose 15p to 376½p. **Mersey Docks** also made headway, with consideration of recent results pushing the shares 14p higher to 430p.

BSkyB was marked 33p lower to 437p, a fall of 7 per cent, on concerns over levels of *future growth and some disap*pointment over the dividend.

EMI *dropped 18p to 547p* because of worries over declining sales of classical music.

Defence stocks were rattled by a National Audit Office report revealing delays and costly over-runs in a number of Ministry of Defence contracts. **GKN** fell back 20½p to £12.65. **British Aerospace** was *down 31p to £14.71, and* Vickers fell 7½p to 220½p.

LVMH, the luxury goods group, further reduced its stake in **Guinness**, selling ten million shares at 585¼p each. LVMH, which is seeking to scupper the Guinness/GrandMet merger now holds *11.47* per cent in Guinness, which ended at 581½p, down *3½p yesterday.*

Eidos, the computer games group, dived 102½p to 447½p after doubling its first-quarter losses and concerns over talk of an inquiry into share dealings. **Games Workshop** continued to benefit from recent figures and put on a further 15p to 654p.

Graystone, the engineering *group, was hit after a profit* warning and an announce*ment that bid talks had come* to an end. The shares ended down 42p at 39½p, a new low for the year.

A profits warning also sent **Portmeirion Potteries** lower. The shares fell 65p lower to 430p, their lowest point for two years.

Wace, the printing group, fell back after delivering a warning over *future* profits growth. The shares closed at *27½p, down 9p.*

Johnson Group Cleaners added 3p to 226½p after first-half figures, while late news of a second profit warning and the resignation of the chief executive left **Abi Leisure**, the caravan group, down 27p to 38p.

GILT-EDGED: The markets were left unscathed by the equities sell-off and saw little action with little data to chew *on. In futures, the September* series of the long gilt finished *off £⁶⁄₃₂ at £114²⁰⁄₃₂, with the* number of completed contracts just 28,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 closed off £¹⁄₃₂ at £102²²⁄₃₂, while at the long end, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 ended down £⁷⁄₃₂ at £109³⁰⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK**: The Dow Jones industrial average lost more than 100 points in early *trading on weakness in the* bond market, earnings wor*ries and volatility related to* the expiration of options. At midday, the index was down 78.51 points at 7,863.52.

Hotel shares were given a boost by positive City talk with Merrill Lynch, the broker, looking for value in the sector. The current rating is seen as undemanding. Jarvis Hotels ended 3½p higher at 161p, with Millennium & Copthorne up 11p to 400p. *Stakis* was up 2p to 108p, while Thistle Hotels rose 1½p to 146p.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
MAID	208p	+20p	After results
Royal Bank of Scotland	602p	-27½p	Acquisition plans
Allied Domecq	477½p	+23p	Broker comment
BTR	214p	+24p	Currency factors
ICI	£10.28½	-55½p	Profit taking
Ulster TV	199p	+32½p	Scottish Media raises stake
Games Workshop	645p	+110p	Strong results
Pearson	747½p	-30p	Profit taking
HSBC	£21.67½	-118½p	*Weak Far East markets*

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7863.52 (-78.51)
S&P Composite	916.19 (-8.58)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19326.03 (+103.41)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	16096.88 (-400.83)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	894.42 (-41.17)
Sydney:	
AO	2666.2 (+38.8)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4152.86 (-78.57)
Singapore:	
Straits	1953.80 (+62.03)
Brussels:	
General	Closed
Paris:	
CAC-40	Closed
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1187.50 (-13.10)
London:	
FT 30	3143.3 (-54.9)
FTSE 100	4865.8 (-125.5)
FTSE 250	4698.2 (+8.3)
FTSE 350	2355.9 (-48.2)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2638.97 (-34.77)
FTSE All-Share	2302.4 (-43.92)
FTSE Non Financials	2304.58 (-38.15)
FTSE Fixed Interest	125.54 (-0.11)
FTSE Govt Secs	96.73 (-0.12)
Bargains	45487
SEAQ Volume	808.9m
US$	1.6093 (+0.0223)
German Mark	2.9273 (-0.0225)
Exchange Index	102.1 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2833
£:SDR	1.1679
RPI	157.5 Jul (3.3%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	156.4 Jul (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofgsta Uts	410	...
Billiton	234	- ½
Blakes Clothing	80	+ 7½
Bristol & West Prf	108¼	...
Cammell Laird	138½	+ 1
EMI B	115	...
Fairfield Ents	117½	...
Fairplace Consulting	3¼	...
GR Holdings	55	- 10
Galen Holdings	195	...
Helicon Pubslg	99½	- ½
Ionica Group	373½	- 8
Kingfisher Leisure	175½	...
LEPCO	78½	...
Landround	94½	...
Metroline	207½	- 2
Reabourne Merlin	108½	...
SBS Group	108½	...
Severn Trent B	34½	...
Stentor Warrants	50	...
Thorn B	20½	...
Viglen Technology	65½	- ½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Golden Land n/p (21)	2½	...
Logica n/p (605)	217½	- 7½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Fine Art Dev	302½p (+14p)
Admiral	472½p (+21p)
Psion	376½p (+15p)
Vaux Group	288p (+10p)
Croda	349½p (+9p)
FALLS:	
Graystone	39½p (-42p)
ABI Leis	38p (-27p)
Quicks Group	122½p (-10p)
Wolseley	453½p (-25p)
Redland	295½p (-11p)
EMI	547p (-18p)
Greencore	305p (-10p)
Allied Irish	537½p (-15p)
Bank Scotland	411½p (-11p)
Bk of Ireland	730p (-21½p)
Molins	592½p (-17½p)
Imperial Tob	393½p (-12½p)

Closing Prices Page 37

TEMPUS

White moment awaited

IT WOULD be quite understandable if Peter White were to develop the nervous habit of continually glancing over his shoulder. As chief executive of the Alliance & Leicester he must know that there are a number of acquisitive financial institutions, foreign as *well as British, running the slide rule over his* recently converted building society — even if there have been no formal approaches.

But he must also keep his eyes peeled on the road ahead, looking out for businesses to buy, as he has committed the A&L to doing, with some of the £800 million of surplus cash he is sitting on. Of course, once he has done that deal his five-year protection from hostile bids automatically drops away. But at this stage it is academic — the prices for any decent *business Mr White may wish to acquire* are far too high and squandering the bank's new-found wealth would be *hard to justify* to shareholders. Mr White has said that he is not looking at foreign deals *but wants something* that brings "more profitable customers and more *profitable products*".

What may allow Mr White a little *breathing space* while he casts around for the perfect deal is that A&L's share price is pretty "toppy". Before A&L's flotation in April, the forecast share price range was between 385p and 415p. Last night it closed at 621½p. By any reasonable analysis, even in these heady days for the banking sector, that is a *very* generous valuation. A relatively generous dividend policy and the chance of a special dividend *makes the shares* worth hanging onto, with the added excitement that A&L *might attract a bid* as the financial services market consolidates.

Wace

TREVOR GRICE has given and Trevor Grice has taken away — but the name of Trevor Grice *will* be anything but blessed in the City *of London.*

The same man who rescued Wace from near collapse has knocked it back down to its knees again in the space of four years, and the share price has already fallen by a staggering 70 per cent in the course of this year alone.

Mr Grice cannot shrug away *any of the blame*. Each downfall has been a strategy blunder.

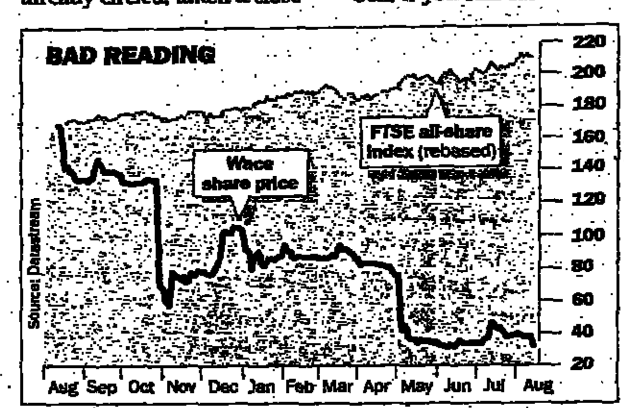
Its cost-cutting in America has prompted its staff to flee and take their clients with them. Every section of yesterday's report contained woeful farewells to large paying clients.

The trouble was expected. Since its suspiciously upbeat statement in February the company has issued no fewer than three profits warnings, but the City was *expecting a loss of "only" £14* million. The £57 million is *sheer disaster.*

Not even the most fearless *speculator should take the* dive now. The vultures have already circled, taken a close look at the Wace body corporate and flown away.

This is not a time to buy on bad news. Institutions are already queueing up to sell *to wash away the embarrass*ment. With the debt mounting, the company is in real danger of going bust unless it finds very forgiving bankers.

Sell, if you still can.



Flextech

WHEN Flextech arrived on the scene in the early 1990s, no one took it seriously. Here was a former oil services company that decided British couch potatoes wanted more choice in their TV viewing. Flextech recruited a few big-name American sponsors and has since become the second-largest provider of *subscription channels, after* BSkyB, the satellite broad*caster. The shares have* soared this year, though they are well off their peak.

While Flextech has its critics — it has never made a profit and seems in no hurry to do so — the company has collected so many basic channels that no multichannel operator can afford to ignore it.

Currently, Flextech simply sells the broadcast rights to *individual channels and col*lects a fee, depending on how *many viewers it attracts.* It has no brand and no platform, a term that refers to the *technical ability to supply the* channels and bill viewing subscribers.

Setting itself up as an integrated broadcaster, in which it would package and brand its own channels, buy others from third parties and provide the means for customers to pay for them might be the way to go as the market develops.

The problem, of course, is *that it would cost a fortune to* duplicate BSkyB's subscriber *management system, though* Flextech may be able to find a partner with the expertise to cobble one together.

Flextech's future would be brighter if it found a way to keep more of the revenue generated by its channels. The shares, however, remain a long-term buy.

Bunzl

ANOTHER *good foray* across the Atlantic drove the *paper and plastics company's* shares up yesterday to a 1997 high. The Unisource deal *makes sense. Bunzl is buying* a loss-making competitor, part of a massive paper distribution company that isn't really keen on the supermarket-supplies sector.

It will merge the business into an operation that already makes a 7 per cent profit on sales, and wait for the benefits to roll in, with the potential of an extra $21 million (£13 million) in profit a year.

Some of the Unisource business's losses are due to Bunzl's success in the US market. Bunzl snaffled a $30-million odd supermarket contract from its erstwhile competitor.

And all this in a climate where consumer antipathy towards disposable packaging, fostered by the green movement of the Eighties, is pretty weak.

The shares have still got *further to go: buy before ster*ling weakens against the dollar, increasing the cost of this attractive growth opportunity.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	1010-1009	Dec	1116-1115
Dec	1032-1031	Mar	1131-1130
Mar	1055-1053	*May*	1145-1142
May	1072-1071	Jul	1158-1154
Jul	1087-1085		
Sep	1104-1102		Volume: 2985

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	1485 BID	May	1460 SLR
Nov	*1505-1504*	*Jul*	*unq*
Jan	1490 BID	Sep	—
Mar	1475-1470		Volume: 2811

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	324.8-23.5
Spot 345.5		Aug	323.5-20.0
Oct	*326.0-26.5*	*Oct*	*318.0-17.0*
Dec	323.8-23.3	Dec	318.0-16.0
Mar	326.5-26.0		Volume 952

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on August 14

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	72.54	109.84	101.01
(+/-)	-4.79	-3.99	+1.10
Eng/Wales:	72.54	110.05	100.93
(+/-)	*-4.75*	*-3.80*	*+1.730*
(%)	+23.0	+12.0	-6.05
Scotland:	unq	106.50	104.52
(+/-)		-4.35	-2.343
(%)		+4.0	+22.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.90	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Oct)	19.00	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Nov)	19.15	-0.25
W Texas *Intermediate (Oct)*	20.20	-0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	20.30	-0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	224 (-3)	227 (-3)
Gasoil EEC	170 (-4)	171 (-5)
3.5 Fuel Oil	92 (-1)	95 (n/c)
Naphtha	193 (-2)	195 (-3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Sep	171.25-71.50	Dec	175.75-76.00
Oct	173.00 SLR	Jan	176.25-76.50
Nov	*174.25-74.75*		*Vol: 9061*

BRENT (6.00pm)

Oct	18.96-18.99	Jan	19.19 BID
Nov	19.09-19.13	Feb	19.10 BID
Dec	n/a		Vol. 13350

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	84.50	Sep	78.25
Nov	87.50	Nov	81.25
Jan	*89.50*	*Jan*	*83.35*
Mar	91.50	Mar	84.35
May	93.50	May	86.85
Volume: 390		Volume: 70	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	62.0
Mar		117.0
Apr	134.0	133.0
		Volume: 48

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Sep 61.25-61.75

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Aug 97	*1320*	*1315*	*1317*
Sep 97	1395	1390	1390
Oct 97	1500	1495	1495
Jan 98	1510	1500	1505
Vol: 111 lots		Open Interest: 3134	

Index 1293 (+6)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2261.0-2263.0	2261.0-2262.0	Vol: 900925
Lead ($/tonne)	*604.00-604.50*	*616.00-616.50*	147110
Zinc Spec HI Gde ($/tonne)	1697.0-1698.0	1636.0-1637.0	736790
Tin ($/tonne)	5351.0-5352.0	5401.0-5402.0	18915
Aluminium HI Gde ($/tonne)	1729.0-1730.0	1707.0-1708.0	2197220
Nickel ($/tonne)	6570.0-6575.0	6675.0-6680.0	154362

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Alld Dom	460	34	42	48½	9½	22½	25
(*478)	500	14½	22	29½	27½	44½	46
ASDA	140	12	16½	19	3	5	6½
(*150½)	160	3	7	9½	13½	15	16½
Boots	750	58½	82½	—	13½	28	—
(*793½)	800	33½	57	70½	31	46	50
Br Airways	600	43½	61½	74	15½	25½	30
(*622½)	650	19½	37½	49	40	49	54½
BP	850	39½	58	70	29	41½	50
(*852)	900	16½	35½	46½	56½	69	74½
Br Steel	160	15½	19½	24½	4	7	10
(*171½)	180	5	9½	15	12	17	20
C & W	550	33½	52½	65	16½	30	35
(*558)	600	12½	30	42	49	58	62
CU	700	55½	80½	97½	25	42½	52
(*739½)	750	34½	61½	72½	50	67	76½
ICI	1000	61	96	107	33½	44½	58½
(*1031½)	1050	39½	69	77½	56	68½	83
Land Sec	900	54	74	92	14½	22	29½
(*933)	950	25	46½	63½	34½	45	50½
M & S	550	49½	61½	74½	9	15	18½
(*597)	600	20	32½	45	26½	34½	39½
Nat West	750	77½	114	124	25	44½	57
(*798)	800	47	88	96	45	68	80½
Safeway plc	360	34	43	50½	5	11	14
(*386)	390	15	25	37½	15½	23	27
Sainsbury	420	30½	48½	58	7	13	16½
(*448½)	460	15½	26½	37½	23½	30	34
Shell	400	24	36½	—	14	21½	—
(*411½)	417	15	28½	—	22½	29	—
Smkl Bch	1050	77½	113½	135½	30	51½	62½
(*1086)	1100	50½	87½	109½	52½	75½	85½
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zeneca	1800	144	194½	232½	37½	66	81½
(*1899½)	1900	89½	140	179½	78½	107	125
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAT Ind	500	40	60½	69½	17	27	36½
(*517)	550	10½	37	45	44½	55½	63½
Vodafone	300	26	34½	40½	6½	12½	15
(*316½)	330	10	19	25	20½	22	29½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Grnd Met	550	36	56	73½	1	11	22½
(*585)	600	3	28	45½	17	32	44½
Ladbroke	240	11	21	27	0	10	11½
(*250)	260	1½	11½	17½	10	20½	22
Utd Bisc	200	14	20	24½	0	4½	6½
(*213)	220	1½	9½	14	7	15	15
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAA	550	34½	52½	62½	10	18	19½
(*575)	600	12½	27½	36½	34	42½	43½
Thames W	750	57½	72	86	14½	24	29
(*799)	800	28½	48½	58½	33½	47	51½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
BTR	200	15½	20	27½	1	9	11
(*215)	220	2½	12	19½	7	18	21
Br Aero	1450	29½	85	124½	7	52½	63½
(*1472)	1500	5	56½	97½	33	78	87
Br Telcm	355	39½	46½	54	0½	12	16½
(*394½)	385	8½	29	37	8	24½	29
Cadbury	600	9½	33½	49	6	24½	32
(*603)	650	0	14	27½	47	50½	61½
Guinness	550	32½	48½	59½	0½	15	18
(*581½)	600	1½	21	32½	20	36½	42½
GEC	360	19½	33	40½	0½	10½	14½
(*378)	390	1	16	25½	12	22½	27½
Hanson	300	6	27	29	1½	13	16½
(*306½)	330	0	5	16	23½	31	34
LASMO	260	15	27½	32	0½	7	10
(*274½)	280	1½	15½	21	7½	14	18½
LucasVarity	200	8	16	22	0½	9½	11
(*207½)	220	0	8	13½	12½	20	21½
Pilkington	140	9½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*149)	160	0½	—	—	11½	—	—
Prudential	600	16	45	65	4½	36	41½
(*606½)	650	1	24	41	42	64½	69½
Redland	280	16½	36½	37	0½	9½	14
(*295½)	300	3½	19	22	7	19	23
R-Royce	240	6½	19½	25	2½	12½	15
(*245)	260	0	10½	16	19½	23	26
Tesco	400	20½	32	44	1	10	16
(*410)	420	1½	16	28½	12	24	20
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Abby Nat	800	49½	79½	90	39	56	66
(*802½)	850	25	56½	67	68	83½	93½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1400	75½	135	151½	75	109½	122
(*1401½)	1450	54½	110½	128	104	134	149
Natl Pwr	500	36	48½	57½	20	26½	27
(*509½)	550	15	27	32½	47½	52½	55
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo Well	1200	67½	102½	123	41	61	76
(*1210)	1250	44½	76½	97½	67	87	101
HSBC	2100	131	208	256½	64½	115½	132½
(*2168½)	2200	80	156	204	112½	165½	178½
Reuter	600	47½	67½	77	17	25	31
(*630)	650	20	40½	50½	39½	47½	56
Royal & Sun	500	43	61	68½	13	24½	30½
(*532)	550	18	35	43	37	49½	55½
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Blue Circ	420	10	25½	37½	2½	16	21
(*427½)	460	0	9½	19	32½	40½	44
	Series	Aug	Nov	Feb	Aug	Nov	Feb
Kingfishr	700	24	51½	67	2½	25	31
(*722½)	750	2	30½	47½	30	48½	54½
	Series	Jan			Jan		
Br Gas	240	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	260	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Series	Sep	Dec	Mar	Sep	Dec	Mar
Dixons	600	22½	47½	56½	21	33	38½
(*601½)	650	6½	26½	36	53½	64	66½
EMI Group	548	22	44	56	18	31	36½
(*548)	575	11	31½	41	34	45½	51
Tarmac	120	5½	9	13	4	7½	9
(*120)	130	2	5½	9	10½	14	15
Hillsdwn	160	10½	—	—	2	—	—
(*160½)	180	2	—	—	14	—	—
Lonrho	120	9½	12½	15½	3	5	7½
(*123½)	130	4	8	11	8½	10	13
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	330	11½	22	27	9½	15	18
(*331½)	360	2	9½	13½	29½	33	39½
Lloyds TSB	700	50	80½	99½	19½	36½	47
(*727½)	750	24½	56	74	44	63	71
Scot Pwr	420	16½	30	36	12½	22	26
(*430)	460	4½	14½	20	42½	47	49½
Unilever	1700	102½	152½	195½	19½	46	57½
(*1781½)	1800	38	98½	140½	47½	87	99½

FTSE INDEX (*4670)

	4750	4800	4850	4900	4950	5000
Calls						
Aug	126	76	36	0	0	0
Sep	180½	157	128	101	80	54
Oct	236	205	175	147	125	103
Nov	279	249	219	189	167½	145
Dec	—	288½	—	225½	—	191½
Puts						
Aug	0	0	18	68	118	168
Sep	86½	107	129	155½	185	218½
Oct	117	138	158½	184	214½	244
Nov	145½	166	197	209	237½	266½
Dec	—	177	—	221½	—	280½

August 15, 1997 Tot: 53621 Call: 26713 Put: 29004 FTSE Call: 12516 Put: 9795

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 175276	Sep 97	114-28	114-29	114-09	114-20	29578
	Dec 97	114-13	114-13	114-06	114-07	139
German Govt Bond (Bund) *Previous open interest 284577*	Sep 97	102.39	102.42	102.00	102.14	90109
	Dec 97	101.54	101.54	101.30	101.30	898
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 106347	Sep 97	135.56	135.65	134.36	134.65	21731
	Dec 97	106.85	106.97	106.85	106.98	36
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 97	126.87	126.89	126.82	126.89	3077
	Dec 97	126.15	126.15	126.07	126.15	2160
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.77	92.78	92.76	92.77	3549
	Dec 97	92.65	92.66	92.63	92.64	6625
Previous open interest 627030	Mar 98	92.62	92.63	92.59	92.60	6693
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1702715	Sep 97	96.63	96.63	96.59	96.62	28318
	Dec 97	96.44	96.44	96.37	96.42	42143
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 384424	*Sep 97*	93.22	93.22	93.14	93.19	8527
	Dec 97	93.53	93.55	93.44	93.49	14292
Three Mth Euroyen	Dec 97				99.36	0
	Mar 98	99.25	99.25	99.25	99.25	500
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 155350	Sep 97	98.41	98.43	98.38	98.42	2368
	Dec 97	98.20	98.21	98.17	98.19	3313
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 40710	Sep 97	95.60	95.60	95.59	95.59	119
	Dec 97	95.51	95.51	95.49	95.50	51
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 79943	Sep 97	5002.0	5015.0	4842.0	4847.0	15509
	Dec 97				4913.0	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 8½ Low 6¾ Week fixed: 7⅛

Treasury *Bills* (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅝; 3 mth 6⅝. Sell: 2 mth 6⅝; 3 mth: 6⅝.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	6⅞-6¾	6⅞-6¾	7-6⅞	7⅛-7	
Sterling Money Rates:	7⅛-7	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛	7⅜-7¼	7½-7⅜
Interbank:	7⅛-7	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛	7⅜-7¼	7½-7⅜
Overnight: open 7, close 8.					
Local Authority Deps:	7⅛	n/a	7⅛	7⅜	7½
Sterling CDs:	7⅛-7	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛	7⅜-7¼	7½-7⅜
Dollar CDs:	5.55	n/a	5.61	5.71	5.91
Building Society CDs:	7⅛-7	7⅛-7	7⅛-7⅛	7⅜-7¼	7½-7⅜

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1,126m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.305% received: 63%; Last week: £98.30% received: 38%; Avge rate: £6.7810% last wk £6.7800%; Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5¾-5⅝	5⅞-5¾	5⅝-4⅝
Deutschemark:	*3⅛-2⅞*	*3⅛-3*	*3¼-3⅛*	*3⅜-3¼*	*3¼-2¾*
French Franc:	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅜-3¼	3⅜-3¼	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc:	1⅛-1	1⅛-1⅛	1⅜-1¼	1½-1⅜	1⅛-⅞
Yen:	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $323.50-323.90 **Close:** $324.00-324.50 **High:** $325.00-325.50 **Low:** $323.50-324.00 **AM:** $323.50 **PM:** $324.65

Krugerrand: $323.50-325.50 (£201.00-203.00)

Platinum: $422.00 (£262.95) **Silver:** $4.46 (£2.765) **Palladium:** $211.00 (£131.45)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for August 15	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2954-3.3098	3.2954-3.2984	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-2⅞pr
Brussels	60.395-60.730	60.395-60.486	21-16pr	56-49pr
Copenhagen	*11.145-11.198*	*11.145-11.154*	½-⅛pr	1-½pr
Dublin	1.0946-1.1034	1.1003-1.1023	12-6pr	29-22pr
Frankfurt	2.9261-2.9386	2.9261-2.9289	1-⅞pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Lisbon	*296.69-298.04*	*296.69-296.99*	½-¼pr	*1½-1pr*
Madrid	247.74-248.52	247.74-248.04	38-25pr	115-97pr
Milan	2857.0-2871.3	2857.0-2860.7	12pr-3ds	30-7pr
Montreal	2.2131-2.2381	2.2364-2.2381	0.72-0.66pr	1.40-1.31pr
New York	1.5920-1.6098	1.6097-1.6104	0.213-0.192pr	0.595-0.565pr
Oslo	12.139-12.220	12.189-12.198	⅛-⅛pr	1-⅛pr
Paris	9.8610-9.9080	9.8610-9.8685	3⅛-3⅛pr	9⅞-9⅛pr
Stockholm	12.756-12.805	12.793-12.810	⅛-⅛pr	⅛-⅛pr
Tokyo	187.95-189.29	188.35-188.59	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-3pr
Vienna	20.591-20.680	20.589-20.609	⅞-⅞pr	2-1⅛pr
Zurich	2.4164-2.4234	2.4154-2.4175	1⅛-1⅛pr	3⅛-3⅛pr
Source: Extel			*Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*	

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3458-1.3477
Austria	12.80-12.81
Belgium (Com)	37.53-37.57
Canada	1.3889-1.3894
Denmark	6.9225-6.9245
France	6.1315-6.1335
Germany	1.8180-1.8190
Hong Kong	7.7488-7.7498
Ireland	1.4610-1.4660
Italy	1777.50-1779.00
Japan	117.05-117.10
Malaysia	2.7815-2.2.7845
Netherlands	2.0471-2.0476
Norway	7.5665-7.5725
Portugal	184.24-184.34
Singapore	*1.5160-1.5175*
Spain	153.99-154.11
Sweden	7.9315-7.9390
Switzerland	1.4980-1.4990

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6094-1.6121
Australia dollar	*2.1649-2.1677*
Bahrain dinar	0.5935-0.6055
Brazil real*	1.7461-1.7506
China yuan	13.032-13.332
Cyprus pound	0.8550-0.8650
Finland markka	8.7275-8.8435
Greece drachma	456.50-463.50
Hong Kong dollar	12.4767-12.4861
India rupee	56.32-57.28
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4805-0.4905
Malaysia ringgit	4.4822-4.4901
New Zealand dollar	2.5117-2.5173
Pakistan rupee	63.95 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7275-5.8515
Singapore dollar	2.4414-2.4447
S Africa rand (com)	7.4150-7.5170
U A E dirham	*5.7800-5.9040*

Barclays Bank GTS Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	448	Ladbroke	1,400
ASDA Gp	6,800	Land Secs	865
Abbey Ntl	6,400	Legal & Gn	2,400
Allnce & Leic	4,900	Lloyds TSB	6,900
Allied Dom	1,300	LucasVarity	18,400
AB Foods	148	Marks Spr	3,700
BAA	697	Mercury Ast	300
BAT Inds	10,200	NatWst Bk	5,800
BG	4,100	Nat Grid	3,800
BOC	965	*Nat Power*	2,300
BP	12,900	Next	839
BSkyB	6,400	Orange	3,000
BTR	14,800	P & O	570
BT	21,300	Pearson	2,800
Bk of Scot	2,300	PowerGen	1,700
Barclays	3,800	Prudential	2,400
Bass	731	RMC	156
Blue Circle	714	Railtrack	759
Boots	878	Rank Group	704
BAe	*1,900*	*Reckitt Col*	575
BA	5,400	Reed Intl	2,400
British Land	1,200	Rentokil	6,000
Brit Steel	6,300	*Reuters*	2,300
Burmah Cstl	170	Rio Tinto	1,500
Cable Wire	2,900	Rolls Royce	2,700
Cadbury	1,800	Royal & Sun	7,500
Carlton Cms	2,400	Royal Bk Sct	4,800
Centrica	7,500	Safeway	2,300
Cm Union	4,000	Sainsbury	2,800
Dixons	6,200	Schroders	185
EMI	1,700	Scot & New	2,000
Energy Gp	812	Scot Power	3,000
Enterpr Oil	1,400	Svrn Trent	424
GKN	1,900	Shell Trans	12,700
GRE	24,500	Siebe	737
GUS	3,100	SmKl Bch	4,600
Gen Acc	885	Smiths Inds	1,500
Gen Elec	6,000	Std Chartd	6,500
Glaxo Well	5,309	*TI Gp*	*1,600*
Granada	7,700	Tate & Lyle	5,700
Grand Met	4,100	Tesco	3,000
Guinness	1,300	Thames W	393
HSBC	3,300	Tomkins	3,800
Halifax	7,200	Unilever	1,900
Hanson	3,700	Utd Utilities	2,200
Hays	418	Utd News	342
ICI	2,500	Vodafone	5,800
Imp Tob	6,600	Whitbread	776
Kingfisher	1,100	Wolseley	561
LASMO	1,300	Zeneca	1,900

[illegible]

	Aug 15 midday	Aug 14 close
AMP Inc	49¾	50⅛
AMR Corp	103¾	104⅛
AT & T	39⅛	39⅝
Abbott Labs	63	63⅜
Advanced Micro	37⅛	39⅛
Aetna Life	96⅝	96⅞
Ahmanson (HF)	49⅞	50⅞
Air Prod & Chem	82⅝	82⅝
AirTouch Comm	34⅞	35
Albertson's	34⅛	34½
Alcan Alumnm	36½	37⅛
Allied Signal	87⅜	88⅛
Alum Co of Am	82½	83⅞
Amerada Hess	55⅝	56⅛
Amer El Power	42⅝	43⅜
Amer Express	82⅛	82⅞
Amer Genl Corp	50⅜	51½
Amer Home Pr	75½	77
Amer *Intl*	98⅞	99
Amer Stores	23⅞	24⅛
Amer Standard	50⅛	50⅞
Ameritech	67	67⅛
Amgen	49⅝	49⅜
Amoco	93⅝	93½
Andrew Corp	25⅝	25⅞
Anheuser-Busch	42⅛	42⅛
Apple Computer	23	23
Archer Daniels	21⅜	21⅞
Armco	5⅝	5⅞
Armstrng Wrld	73⅛	73½
Asarco	31½	32⅛
Atl Richfield	74⅛	75⅛
Atmel Corp	34⅛	35⅛
Auto Data Pro	46½	46⅞
Avery Dennison	42⅜	43⅛
Avon Products	65⅝	67
Baker Hughes	40⅝	40⅞
Baltim Gas & El	28⅛	28⅞
Banc One	52⅛	52⅝
BankAmerica	68⅛	68⅞
Bank of NY	46½	47⅛
Bankers Tr NY	100⅝	101½
Barnett Banks	54⅛	54⅝
Bausch & Lomb	42⅛	42⅝
Baxter Intl	53⅝	53⅞
Bectn Dickson	48⅜	49⅛
Bell Atlantic	74⅞	75⅞
BellSouth	45⅝	46⅛
Black & Decker	42⅛	42⅛
Block (H&R)	38	39⅛
Boeing	57	57⅞
Boise Cascade	38⅛	38⅞
Boston Scien	72½	73
Bristol Myrs Sq	75⅞	76½
Browning Ferris	34⅛	34⅞
Brunswick	30⅛	30⅞
Burlingtn Nthn	89⅝	91⅛
CMS Energy Corp	35½	35⅞
CPC Intl	90⅝	91⅞
CSX	56⅝	56⅝
Campbell Soup	47⅞	47⅞
Carolina Pwr	34⅛	34⅝
Case Corp	66	66½
Caterpillar	58⅛	59⅛
Central & SW	20⅛	20⅛
Champion Intl	61⅛	61½
Chase Manhat	110⅞	111⅞
Chevron Corp	78⅞	78⅞
Chrysler	34½	35⅛
Chubb Corp	67⅛	67⅞
Cigna Corp	180½	183⅞
Citicorp	135	136⅛
Clorox	135½	137
Coastal Corp	53½	54⅛
Coca Cola	59⅛	59⅞
Coca Cola Ent	25½	25⅞
Colgate-Palm	69⅝	70⅛
Columbia Gas	66⅛	68½
Columbia/HCA	33	33⅛
Compaq Comp	58⅛	57½
Comp Ass Intl	63⅞	64½
ConAgra	60½	60⅞
Cons Edison	31½	31⅞
Cons Nat Gas	59½	59⅛
Cooper Inds	54⅛	54⅞
Corestates	62⅛	63½
Corning Inc	63½	63½
C'wide Credit	33½	34½
Crestar Finl	44½	45
Crown Cork	50⅝	52
Dana Corp	46½	46⅝
Dayton Hudson	60	60⅛
Deere	54⅝	55⅞
Delta Air Lines	87½	87½
Deluxe Corp	33½	33⅛
Digital Equip	45½	46
Dillard Dept St	40	40
Disney (Walt)	77½	78⅛
Dominion Res	36½	37⅛
Donnelley (RR)	38⅞	39⅛
Dover Corp	69⅛	69⅝
Dow Chemical	94½	94⅞
Dow Jones	42½	42⅛
Dresser	38½	38⅞
Duke Power	48⅛	48⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	28⅛	28½
Du Pont	62⅛	63⅛
Eastman Chem	58⅛	58⅛
Eastman Kodak	63½	63
Eaton Corp	86½	87⅞
Edison Intl	25⅛	25½
Elect Data Sys	37⅞	37⅝
Emerson Elec	55⅞	56⅛
Engelhard Corp	20⅛	20⅞
Enron Corp	36⅛	36⅛
Entergy	25⅛	25½
Ethyl Corp	8½	8⅝
Exxon	59⅝	60⅛
FMC Corp	84⅛	86
FPL Group	46⅛	47⅛
Federal Express	65½	65⅝
Fifth Third Banc	61	61⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	65⅛	65⅛
Fluor Corp	57⅛	58½
Ford Motor	40⅛	40½
Fortune Brands	34⅛	34⅛
Franklin Res	78⅛	78⅞
GTE Corp	47	47⅛
Gannett	97⅛	98⅛
Gap Inc Del	42⅞	43⅛
Gen Dynamics	83½	83⅞
Gen Electric	66	66⅛
Gen Mills	67½	68⅛
Gen Motors	60⅞	61
Gen Reinsurance	193⅞	194
Gen Signal	46½	46½
Genuine Parts	31⅛	32
Georgia Pac	92½	93½
Gillette	86½	90⅞
Glaxo Wellc ADR	39½	39⅛
Goodrich (BF)	44½	44⅞
Goodyear Tire	62⅞	64
Gt Atl Pac Tea	25⅞	25⅛
Great Lakes	40½	40½
Halliburton	43⅞	43½
Harcourt General	48½	48½
Heinz (HJ)	43½	44⅛
Hercules	52½	52½
Hershey Foods	55	55½
Hewlett Packard	68⅞	69½
Hilton Hotels	29½	30⅞
Home Depot	48	48⅞
Homestake Mng	14	13⅞
Honeywell	69½	71
Household Intl	118⅞	119½
Houston Inds	20⅞	20⅛
Humana	23⅞	23½
ITT Corp	63	64
Ikon Office	25⅞	26½
Illinois Tool	48	48⅞
Illinova	22⅞	22½
INCO	29⅝	29½
Ingersoll Rand	62⅛	63½
Inland Steel	20½	20½
Intel Corp	94½	95⅛
IBM	102⅞	103⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	52⅛	52½
Intl Paper	56⅞	57½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57½	58½
Kellogg	93⅞	94⅞
Kerr-McGee	61	61⅛
Kimberly-Clark	51⅛	51⅛
Kmart	12½	12½
Knight-Ridder	49½	50⅛
Lilly (Eli)	104½	105⅞
Limited Inc	22½	22½
Lincoln Nat	69⅞	70½
Litton	47⅞	47½
Liz Claiborne	46½	46⅞
Lockheed Martin	107	107⅞
Louisiana Pac	22⅛	22½
MCI Comm	33⅞	33⅛
Manpower Inc	47½	47½
Marriott Intl	66⅞	67⅛
Marsh & McLen	71⅛	73
Masco Corp	45½	46
May Dept St	54½	55½
Maytag Corp	28⅛	28½
McDonalds	50½	51⅛
McGraw Hill	63	63½
Mead Corp	70½	70⅞
Medtronic	90½	91⅛
Mellon Bk	47½	47½
Merck Inc	93	93⅞
Mercury Fin	2⅛	2⅛
Merrill Lynch	63⅞	65½
Microsoft	135½	136½
Minnesota Mine	94½	94½
Mirage Resorts	27⅛	27½
Mobil Corp	74⅞	75⅛
Monsanto	46⅛	46½
Morgan (JP)	109½	110½
Motorola Inc	81⅞	82½
Natl Semi	33½	34⅞
Natl Service Ind	45	45
Navistar Int	22½	22½
NY Times A	45⅞	46
Newmont Mng	41⅞	41⅞
Nike B	64½	62⅞
NL Industries	12⅞	12⅞
Nordstrom	58½	59⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	103½	102⅞
Nthn State Pwr	48⅞	49⅛
Norwest Corp	58½	58⅞
Nynex Corp	58	58⅛
Occidental Pet	24½	24⅞
Ohio Edison	22	22⅛
Oracle	57⅛	57⅛
Oryx Energy Co	24⅞	24⅞
Owens Corning	40⅞	40½
PPG Industries	62½	63½
PMI Group	57⅝	57⅛
PNC Bank	42⅞	42⅞
PP&L Res	20⅛	20⅞
Paccar Inc	47½	48½
Pacificorp	20½	21
Pac Enterprises	31½	31⅞
Pall Corp	24½	24⅞
Parker Hannifin	63½	64⅞
Peco Energy	22½	22⅞
Penney (JC)	61⅛	62½
Pennzoil	77½	77⅞
Pepsico	36⅛	36⅛
Pfizer	53½	54
Pharm & Upjhn	34½	34⅞
Phelps Dodge	86½	86⅞
Philip Morris	45⅞	46⅛
Phillips Pet	47	48
Pitney Bowes	75½	76⅞
Polaroid	54⅞	55
Procter & Gmbl	141⅞	144⅞
Providian	35½	36½
Pub Serv E & G	24⅞	24⅛
Quaker Oats	49½	49½
Ralston Purina	88⅛	88½
Raychem Corp	93⅞	92⅞
Raytheon	55⅞	56½
Reebok Intl	49⅞	50⅞
Reynolds Metals	74⅞	75½
Rockwell Intl	60⅞	61⅞
Rohm & Haas	97½	98
Royal Dutch	50½	51⅞
Rubbermaid	26	26
SBC Comms	56⅞	57⅛
Safeco Corp	47½	47⅞
St Paul's Cos	74½	75½
Sallie Mae	138⅛	138
Salomon Inc	62	62⅞
Sara Lee Corp	41	41½
Schering Plough	48½	49½
Schlumberger	72½	72½
Seagram	35⅞	35⅛
Sears Roebuck	59½	59⅝
Shell Trans	40½	40½
Sherwin Wlms	30⅛	30½
Silicon Graphics	26⅛	26⅛
Snap-On-Tools	41½	41½
Southern Co	21⅞	21½
Southtrust	44½	44½
Sprint Corp	46⅞	47⅛
Stanley Works	43½	43½
Sun Company	35½	36½
Sun Microsys	47½	47½
Suntrust	61⅛	61⅞
Supervalu	40	40½
Synovus Fin	25⅞	26⅛
Sysco Corp	35½	35⅞
TRW Inc	56	55⅞
TIG Hldgs	32	31½
Tandem Comp	30½	30½
Tandy Corp	66⅞	66⅞
Temple Inland	67½	67⅞
Tenet Healthcare	27⅞	27⅛
Tenneco	44⅞	45⅛
Texaco	112½	113½
Texas Inst	122⅞	122½
Texas Utilities	35	35½
Textron	62⅛	63⅛
Thermo Elect	37⅞	38½
Time Warner	52½	52⅞
Times Mirror A	50½	51
Timken	35⅞	36½
Torchmark	38⅞	38⅞
Toys R Us	33	33½
Transamerica	97½	98½
Travelers	67½	68½
Tribune	49½	49½
UST Inc	28½	29⅞
US Bancorp	88	87
UAL	77⅛	77⅞
US Inds	36½	36½
US West Comm	37⅛	37½
US West Media	20⅛	20⅛
USAirways Group	37	37⅞
USX Marathon	31½	31½
Unicom	22⅛	22⅞
Unilever NV	218½	223½
Union Camp	60½	61½
Union Carbide	52½	54½
Union Pacific	66½	67⅞
Unisys Corp	10⅞	10⅞
USF&G Corp	23	23⅛
United Tech	79⅞	80⅞
Unocal Corp	37⅛	37⅞
VF Corp	88	88⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	34⅞	35⅛
Warner-Lambert	131⅞	132⅞
Waste Mngmnt	33	32⅞
Wells Fargo	260½	262⅞
Westinghouse El	25⅛	25½
Weyerhaeuser	61½	62⅛
Whirlpool	54½	54
Williams	24½	24⅞
Winn Dixie	37⅛	39⅛
Witco Corp	40½	40⅞
Woolworth	25⅞	26½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	73½	74⅛
Xerox	76½	77½
Xilinx Inc	51⅞	51⅞

مكتبة الأهرام

نقلا من الاصل

WAITING GAME 35

Pensions patience will pay off

WEEKEND MONEY

CARDS MARKED 31

Worried by use of Visa number

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

ANGUS MEWSE

When will the bubble burst?

Crash fears are prevalent but **Adam Jones** and **Caroline Merrell** remain confident for a new era

This week share prices on global markets were nearly 100 per cent higher than at the start of this particular bull run in 1990. According to an analysis by Templeton, the global investment house, a rise of this size has in the past been followed by a 25 per cent fall in the value of shares. The falls are not always sharp corrections, as experienced in 1987. They may be spread over several years.

Meanwhile, an analysis by Merrill Lynch, the securities house, showed that many of the UK's biggest pension fund managers were increasing their holdings of cash.

But a survey by *The Times* found only a few committed bears among fund managers. Few predict a sudden sharp fall in the indices and the bursting of the stock market bubble. Some speculate that we may have entered a new period for the markets, where shares prices may defy the normal rules.

In the City many are furiously studying American experience to discover the future for the London market. Wall Street has long shrugged off predictions of a share slump. Strong economic growth has so far failed to cause the inflation that would make equity yields unattractive to buyers. Analysts ask whether European economies are at the same stage of development as the US earlier this decade. If the answer is yes, then stock markets could continue to rise.

Brian Bielinski, an analyst at Salomon Brothers, believes there are parallels to the US a couple of years ago, which include persistent growth in productivity allowing company profits to keep rising without similar-sized increases in costs such as salaries. But he argues that much of this may already be factored into current prices. Salomon smells a Wall Street fall, the so-called "correction", in the second half of 1997.

This week, there were indications, temporarily at least, that European markets can continue to rise. The London stock market had started the week under a cloud after a fall on Wall Street late the previous Friday. Many speculated that it might signal the end of the UK's bull run.

Doom merchants were confounded but, after yesterday's falls, the market will start next week under the same cloud. Drawing on renewed optimism wafting over from the US, which was quickly forgetting its earlier stumble, the UK index recovered, then drifted round the 5,000 mark after a brief fall on Monday morning.

Until yesterday, prices had held in the face of some testing economic data. On Wednesday unemployment was shown to be at its lowest level for 17 years. But earnings growth remained stable, calming inflation fears.

In the longer run, the pessimists who foresee a significant fall in the UK market have not changed their tune. It is difficult to find an equally loud voice saying there will be a big rise. In many cases, 5,000 or below is the prediction for the FTSE by the end of the year, alongside falls on other exchanges around the world.

There is general agreement that investors should now avoid trendy "momentum" stocks that could be hit badly by a downturn and opt for neglected sectors that offer better value.

Prudential, which is the largest investor in the UK stock market, has not changed its view on UK shares. Juan Nevado, who is part of the team that decides where the Prudential invests its billions, said: "We prefer the UK to other stock markets. European markets are much more vulnerable. Since the beginning of the third quarter, the UK has been outperforming other markets, and we think that it will continue to do so."

Neil Woodford, fund manager with Perpetual, said that the moment everyone starts predicting that share prices will fall is the moment to invest. He said: "I think that there will be a crash, but it will be upwards. The pension fund managers feel bearish because they have for the first time been completely beaten by the passive fund managers. If they are switching into cash and the market is still going up, there is still further value to be had."

Mr Woodford does not believe that the UK is in a strong bull market. He points out that only companies in the FTSE 100 index, that is the biggest companies, have shown very strong rises. The share prices of the medium-sized or small companies have not moved upwards with such alacrity. Export-led manufacturing companies and those that have large overseas earnings have been hurt by the strength of the pound. With the weakening of sterling, they may now start to bounce back.

Mathew Orr, a partner with Killik & Co, the broker, is also optimistic, and also believes that the smaller companies will now come into their own. Although the FTSE 100 has moved up 27 per cent, some of the companies with less than £1 billion market capitalisation have not moved. Halma and Dorling Kindersley, the publisher, are two such stocks, he claims.

For those UK investors who are nervous about buying into the UK market at these levels, Mr Orr points to UK investment trusts trading at a discount. "The discounts protect investors against a downturn."

Jeremy Batstone, Natwest stockbroker, pointed out that many in the US had been expecting a crash for some time — it had not arrived. "We now have to realise that we are in a new paradigm."

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Royal Bank still on the lookout

Nationwide members may have rejected conversion, but the wave of demutualisations in the building society industry is not quite over (Anne Ashworth writes). Birmingham Midshires, a society long tipped as likely to succumb to a predator, is to be taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland for a price between £605 million and £630 million.

However, the move has not exhausted the expansionist ambitions of the bank which had earlier been disappointed in its hope of acquiring the Nationwide. RBS says that it will be seeking other building society purchases.

Around one million Birmingham Midshires members will benefit from the takeover. Although an average payout of £600 has been mentioned, the exact purchase price for the society will be based on its profits for the 12 months to June 30, 1998.

It appears that the terms of the takeover could resemble the Bristol & West distribution. B&W borrowers and savers who had been with the society for less than two years did not qualify for cash payments but were given B&W preference shares. Longer-standing savers received cash. It is likely that Birmingham Midshires borrowers and recently joined savers will receive preference shares in RBS. They will be able to sell these via a low-cost dealing service.

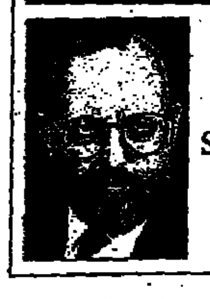
It is not yet clear whether savers of longer standing will receive a basic amount or a payment based on the size of their balance. JP Morgan, the merchant bank advising Birmingham Midshires, has favoured the basic distribution arrangement in two of its three building society deals, the conversions of the Alliance & Leicester and Northern Rock.

On the basis of the details that have been disclosed so far, analysts consider that Birmingham Midshires members are getting a fair deal. Borrowers and recently joined savers would, doubtless, prefer to receive RBS ordinary shares, but existing RBS

Continued on page 31, col 3

Bombs that need defusing

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

These are nervous times in the financial markets. And that is good news. The more aware investors, traders and the authorities are of the tensions that have built up, the less likely they are to trigger explosions.

The 1987 crash had its origins on the foreign exchanges. Economic and interest rates cycles in America, Europe and Japan were out of kilter. The dollar had fallen steadily for two years after being driven to the heights by a boom linked to high interest rates. A sharp final drop was triggered by American refusal, at the economic summit, to do much about its trade and Budget deficits.

The tensions built up this summer seem less extreme. They are still liable to cause volcanic eruptions if continental plates grate harshly against one other.

Interest rates are so low in Japan that retired people, who rely much more on cash savings, are suffering badly. Three-month deposits fetch only 0.5 per cent and eight-year government bonds about 2 per cent. That helps Japanese banks to recover their huge losses, but no wonder investment has flowed abroad, mainly into US Treasury bonds. So the yen has fallen from a high of 82 to 118 to the dollar, too low for comfort. Japan will surely follow IMF advice to raise rates.

The dollar was boosted by speculators from all quarters who expected the long expansion to bring more pre-emptive rises in interest rates or threaten inflation. Neither has happened recently. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has changed his mind: instead of lambasting "irrational exuberance", he now accepts that a US productivity miracle just could keep non-inflationary growth going indefinitely. Speculators chasing rising money rates have been replaced by others chasing bond prices. Ten-year money now fetches only 6⅓ per cent and 30 year money 6⅔. That looks a decent return to lock in, but not if optimists are wrong and the dollar unwinds.

If there is any major economic imbalance, it will be in continental Europe. Governments have tight fiscal policies to qualify for the euro, stifling recovery and leaving interest rates low. Most will not succeed without cheating but, it seems, will qualify anyway. The European central bank may then feel it needs to defend the new euro against such profligacy and raise interest rates well above today's German levels. Or it may not, allowing the euro to stimulate trade. Or the union may fail.

This makes fertile ground for speculators, especially before decisions on euro membership next spring. Foreigners buying mark-denominated assets now are taking a double risk. Traders attacked the mark because it will convert into a weaker euro and, later, high and still rising unemployment would not allow the Bundesbank to defend it. So far, the Bundesbank has sidestepped the challenge neatly.

Continental money has flowed into London stocks, embarrassing cautious domestic fund managers. Foreigners felt safe buying sterling. The highest interest rates in any major market were still rising. But blue chip shares were pushed up when the domestic attractions of holding cash were rising by the month, when sterling's strength was hitting profits and when City forecasts of company earnings growth were falling.

Any change in assumptions being made by traders can easily set off a chain reaction. This week the dollar fell gently against the mark but stopped falling against the yen, and US shares and bonds dipped with minimum fuss. Sterling eased and blue chips relapsed a little. The Bank of England astutely coupled news that UK rates are on hold for three months with one last rise. That was encouraging until yesterday's tumble.

Quirky August trading positions are unravelling from the extremes. The danger will not be over for many months, until markets have coped with some reversal of interest rate trends. Those who remember 1987 will also remember that even a crash can be short-lived when economic fundamentals are sound, as they are in Britain.

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Nathan Yates on whether smaller companies trusts are set to make it big

Cinderella funds miss the ball

Smaller companies funds are the Cinderellas of the unit and investment trust world. While trusts that buy shares in larger firms are basking in the riches of a record bull market, the smaller companies sector is missing the ball.

Relative to the FTSE 100, the FTSE small cap (capitalisation) index that measures the performance of small firms has slumped for a third successive year. The record levels achieved this week by the FTSE 100 have not been matched by rises in the share prices of the smaller companies.

Many investors have lost patience with being left behind, withdrawing £11 million from smaller companies unit trusts in July alone, and a dearth of demand for smaller companies investment trusts has sent average discounts to asset value soaring at 14 per cent.

But expert opinion is sharply divided on whether now is the time to make an exit. Some analysts claim that smaller companies funds are significantly undervalued, while others say the only way forward for this sector is downwards.

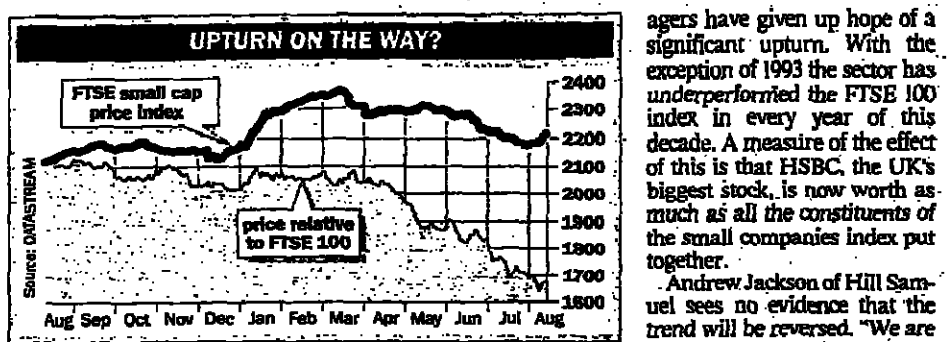
The optimists, such as Andrew Crossley of Invesco, believe that smaller companies offer rare value in a stretched market. "Smaller companies have seen unprecedented underperformance considering we are not in a recession," he said. "But the fundamental story is still that the FTSE 100 is overvalued and the small cap index undervalued. Sooner or later something will trigger a change, and once this happens we will see the gap close quickly."

Mr Crossley says that the gulf between smaller and larger companies has been exaggerated by factors such as building society demutualisations, which have drawn extra investment into the big banks. "Smaller companies specialists have just got demoralised, and the result is that small caps are now cheaper than at any time in the past 15 years," he said.

One of the biggest difficulties for smaller firms is the strength of the pound. A strong pound means that British goods are more expensive to buy abroad, so exporters are faced with either squeezing their profits or losing competitiveness. For large multinational companies the problem is less acute because they can offset their UK currency losses against gains in other parts of the world. But for a small British manufacturer, it is difficult to escape the problem.

In addition, rising interest rates create a tough environment for small firms, many of which are forced to rely on borrowing to sustain investment. Higher rates mean higher borrowing costs and lower profits for shareholders.

According to Gervais Williams, of Gartmore, an imminent change in both of these negative factors will trigger a revival for smaller companies. "The amazing divergence between large and small will not last. Interest rates will peak soon and we do not expect them to exceed 8 per cent. Sterling may already be on its way down. Either of these factors could be the turning point."


UPTURN ON THE WAY?

Support for Mr Williams's view emerged this week with signs that the gap between share prices of larger and smaller companies is closing. Since Monday smaller companies have outperformed blue chips, and this could be the start of a long-awaited change.

However, the smaller companies slump has been so prolonged that some fund managers have given up hope of a significant upturn. With the exception of 1993 the sector has underperformed the FTSE 100 index in every year of this decade. A measure of the effect of this is that HSBC, the UK's biggest stock, is now worth as much as all the constituents of the small companies index put together.

Andrew Jackson of Hill Samuel sees no evidence that the trend will be reversed. "We are cautious on the prospects for smaller companies," he said. "They are far from out of the woods on sterling, and we are expecting widespread revisions in profit forecasts for 1998."

Hill Samuel's cautious stance is consistent with its belief that the UK is on the brink of a downturn. Conventional wisdom dictates that investors retreat into the safety of blue chip stocks during difficult times. This is because smaller firms are usually more vulnerable to the movements of the economy.

☐ If you believe that smaller companies funds are about to make a comeback, BESt investment recommends Schroder UK Smaller Companies, Gartmore UK Smaller Companies, Credit Suisse Smaller Companies and Invesco UK Smaller Companies.

WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

Happy ending: but investors in the small companies sector are proving as elusive as Cinderella was after her sharp exit

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Reservations over Royal wedding

The Royal Bank of Scotland has, at last, satisfied its urge to buy itself a building society. While some in the City may not be impressed with the results of the bank's retail therapy excursion to the West Midlands, Birmingham Midshires members can be reasonably satisfied. They may be less than thrilled with the potential payouts — £600 being a windfall of moderate proportions — but new ownership may mean a better deal for savers and borrowers who have not enjoyed the most favourable treatment.

The Midshires seems to have fallen out of love with mutuality some time ago. While other mutuals are attempting to justify their existence with more generous savers' offers and lower mortgage rates, the Midshires has been behaving more like a bank, swift to raise its mortgage rate after a base rate increase but slow to improve rates for savers. As a consequence, the Yorkshire Building Society claims that its borrowers with £50,000 loans paid £254 less last year than their counterparts at the Midshires.

Many Midshires customers have stayed faithful only because the society was seen as a takeover target. The Royal Bank must woo them to ensure that they do not decamp to competitors once they have pocketed their bonuses. The bank cannot afford to be left with only those borrowers with arrears and negative equity who would not be welcomed by other lenders.

Executives at other societies happy to be mutual were indecently pleased by the Midshires news. They believe that the departure of this fainthearted mutual will enhance the image of mutuality and its average rates. Already the gap between the mutuals and the converted societies is becoming more defined. The new loan rates of the Halifax (8.45 per cent) and the Nationwide (8.10 per cent) are but one example. At the new banks, the interest rate margin, the crucial gap between savers' and mortgage rates, is more than 2 per cent. Some mutuals can boast a margin of around 1.30 per cent.

But the societies should beware complacency. It is now rumoured that the Halifax will use some of its plentiful cash to deliver more generous savers' rates. The fun is just beginning.

Time to tackle Net cheats

THE credit card oils the wheels of modern living. Many who disapprove of the steep rates charged by card companies keep a flexible friend purely to book travel and cinema tickets. In their advertising, Barclaycard and its kin extol this convenience. They do not mention, however, the risks we run when we part with card details over the telephone.

Alec Evans, a reader of *The Times*, found that his Visa debit card had been used to make purchases over the Internet (see page 31) and was understandably mystified. Although he has sometimes shopped by telephone, he has never surfed the Net. His bank could give no explanation.

Already we pay for card frauds through higher bank charges and interest rates. As the anonymous world of the Internet provides infinite new opportunities for abuse, it seems that we must also be prepared to foot the bill for cyber-thefts. Visa is introducing guidelines to encourage retailers to check the identities of Internet card shoppers. But few are persuaded that these will solve the problem. Until some technology is devised to combat the Net cheats, those who order goods over the phone would be wise to check their card statements with more rigour.

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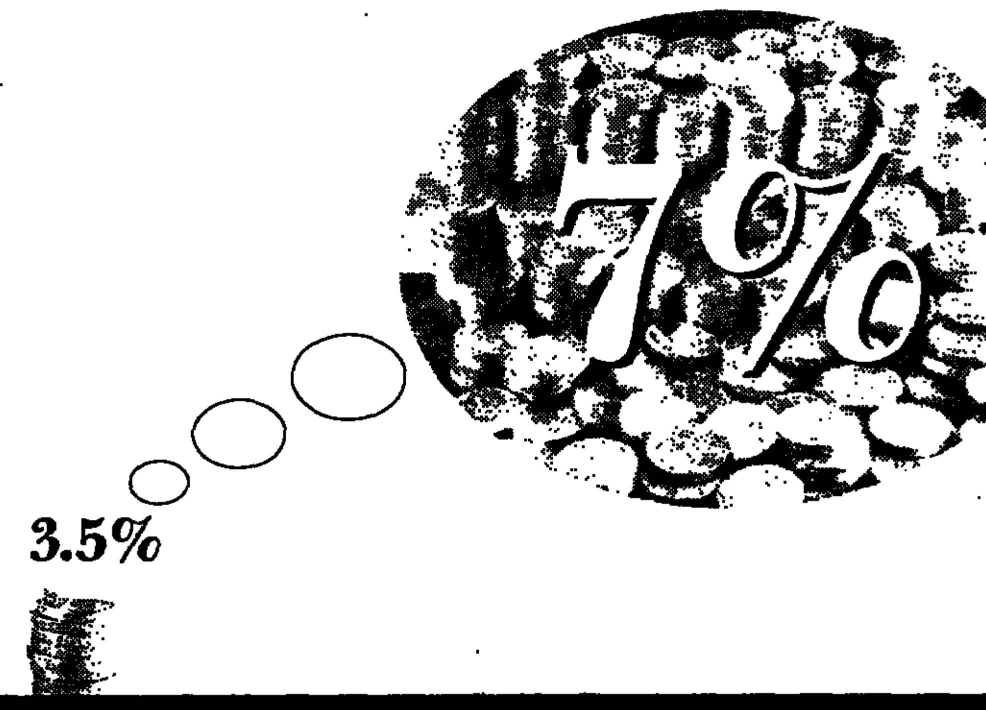

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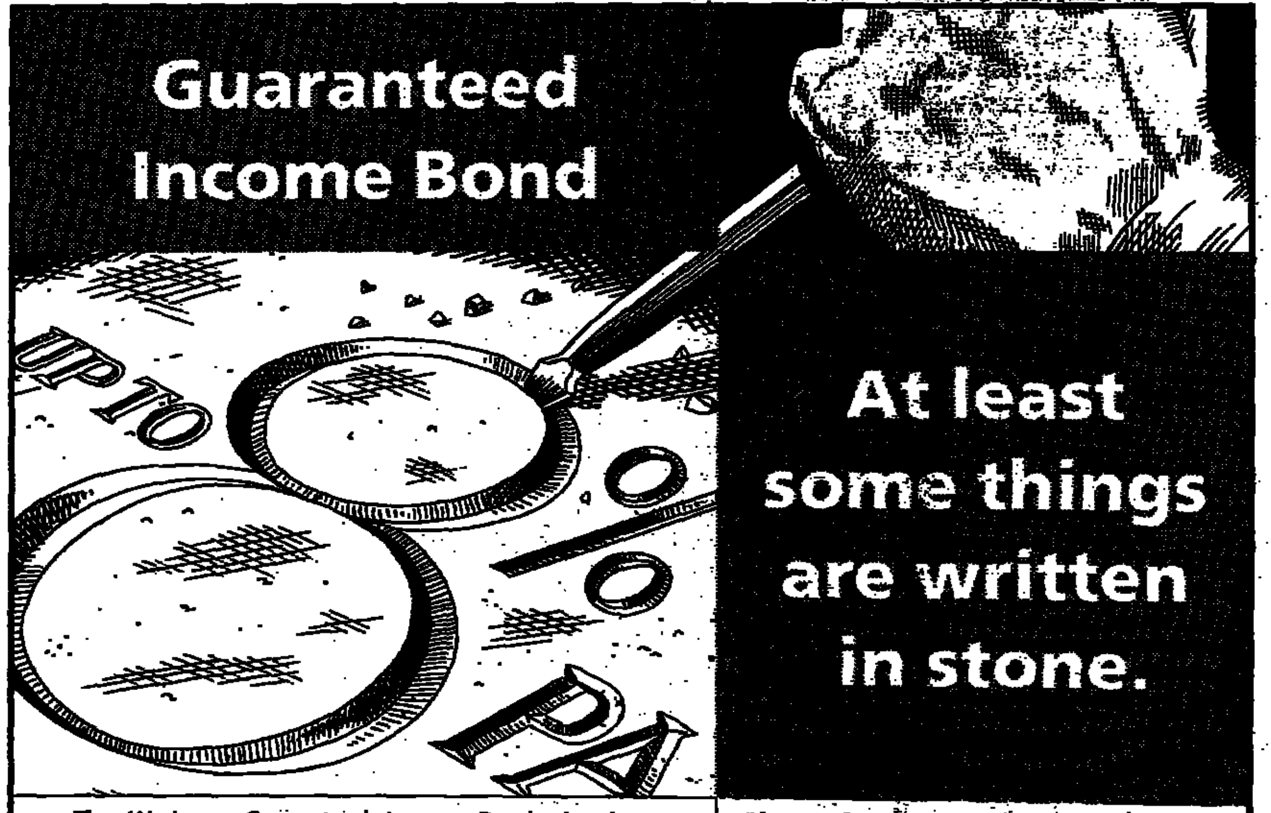

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In need of a safety Net

Caroline Merrell looks into why purchasing financial products and services by computer can be fraught with danger

The danger of investing money through the Internet was illustrated last week by the collapse of the European Union Bank, a company based in Antigua that offered high rates of interest to savers.

The failure of the bank, which was owned by two Russians who have disappeared, will leave many wealthy savers round the world out of pocket. They may have been attracted to the bank because it promised customers complete confidentiality — a maxim enshrined in Antiguan law. It also offered interest rates that were three times the rates offered by UK banks.

Anyone in the UK who invested through the bank will not be protected by any of the various safety mechanisms that can give savers peace of mind about their cash. For example, when BCCI, the international bank, collapsed in 1991, 16,000 UK-based savers received a total of £78 million in compensation under the terms of the Deposit Protection Scheme — the scheme administered by the Bank of England. They received this because, unlike the European Union Bank, BCCI was authorised by the Bank of England.

For UK regulators, policing financial companies and financial transactions on the Internet presents something of a nightmare. It is very cheap for companies to set up sites and it is a very cost-efficient way of reaching millions of people. Many UK-based financial services companies have spotted the potential of the Internet as a method of selling more of their products without having to provide expensive distribution outlets, such as high street branches or salesmen. For example, Gartmore, Fidelity and Mercury all allow consumers to buy unit trusts and Peps through the Internet.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City regulator, pointed out that regulation in this country tended to be focused on the advice given concerning the financial product: where no advice is given and purchases are made on an execution-only basis, then policing schemes becomes much tougher. The SIB pointed out that the Internet allowed consumers to buy stocks and unit trust equivalents from unrecognised markets such as Russia. Information on the viability or otherwise of stocks is bound to be scarce, and while investing through a Russian broker is safer than it was, investors do not enjoy protection under the Financial Services Act.

Even highly regulated markets like the US should be treated with some trepidation. Last year Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, spearheaded a promotional campaign about Nasdaq, an American market where the shares in some of the world's most highly speculative technology companies are traded. The TV campaign for Nasdaq also carried an Internet address.

The SIB, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) and the Securities and Futures Association (SFA) all have sites on the Internet, giving investors guidelines on putting money through Internet-advertised financial companies. An SIB spokesman said: "One of the most important things to do is to make sure that the company is authorised, which can be checked through the SIB central register. If an investment looks too good to be true, then it probably is." He refused to say how many investigations are currently being conducted on companies on the Internet. He added that it received many of its tip-offs from those surfing the Net.

Worried by use of number

Visa, the credit card network, says that the Internet is not a safe place for financial transactions. One reader of *The Times* was pushed hundreds of pounds into debt through Internet fraud on his Abbey National Visa debit card.

Alec Evans, 80, does not own a computer, so he was baffled when he received a letter from the Abbey National claiming that he was overdrawn. He said: "A visit to the local branch disclosed that five unauthorised debits had been made." The five withdrawals were related to three different companies on the Internet. Later, another two withdrawals were made.

The amount taken, in US dollars, amounts to more than £200. Abbey National immediately refunded Mr Evans. He said that he had never made a purchase over the Internet — he does not even own a computer. Abbey National was not able to supply an adequate explanation for the misuse of its customer's card number. An Abbey spokeswoman said: "It is unclear how this happened. He could have been overheard giving out his number, or his details could have fallen into the wrong hands."

JOHN CONNOR PRESS ASSOCIATES

Mystery debits: Alec Evans does not even own a computer

RBS still on the lookout

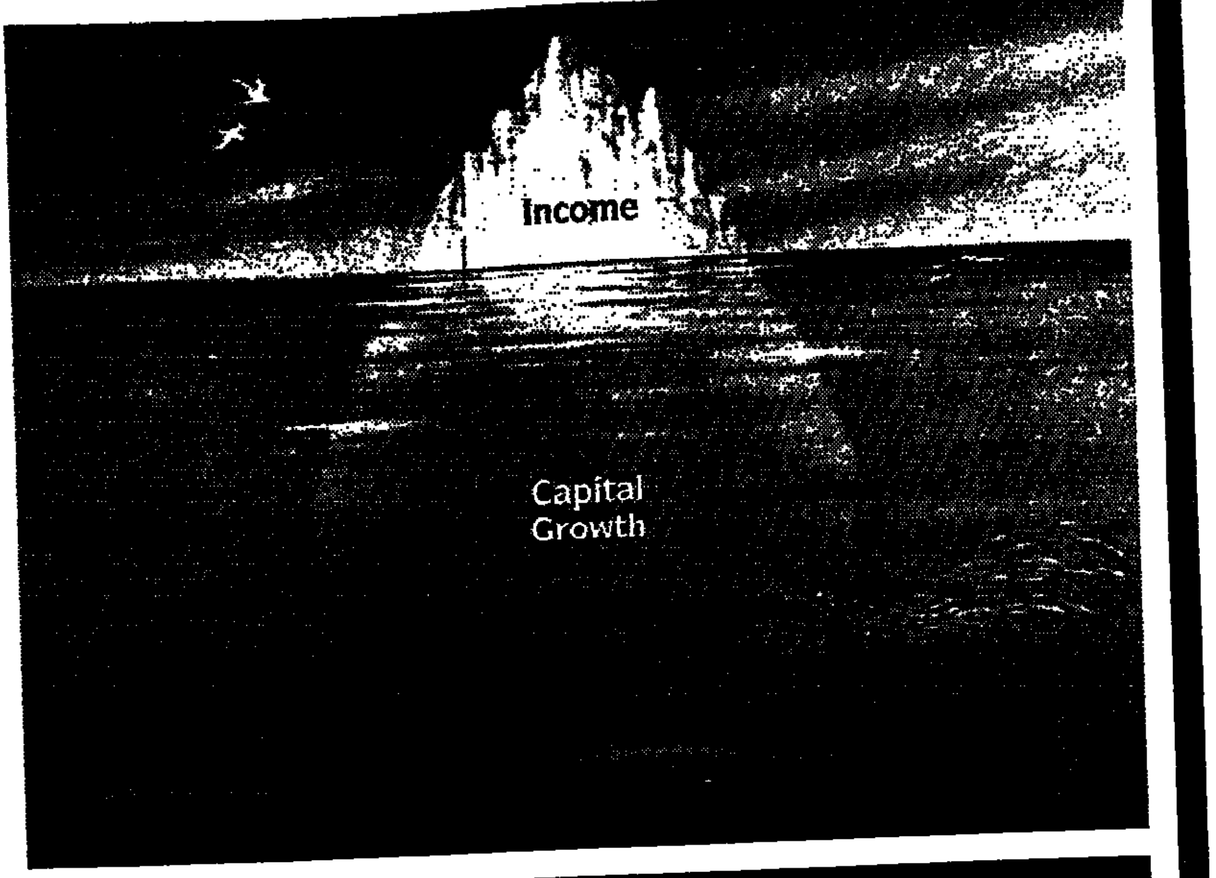
Continued from page 29

shareholders would not have welcomed this dilution of their holdings.

However, many in the City do not believe that RBS has found itself a good buy, because some of the loans acquired by Birmingham Midshires in its multiple purchases of other lenders' mortgage books may not be of the highest quality.

Recently, Birmingham Midshires has preferred to expand by acquiring loan books, rather than selling more of its own mortgages. Over a three-year period, it has had no organic growth.

One analyst also doubted whether RBS will be able to attract other societies to join its organisation. Under the terms of the takeover, the Birmingham Midshires will retain its own brand, product range and head office for three years. But it is likely that other societies would be required to lose their identities immediately. The analyst said: "If there are other societies queueing up to demutualise, then they are not looking for that sort of partner."



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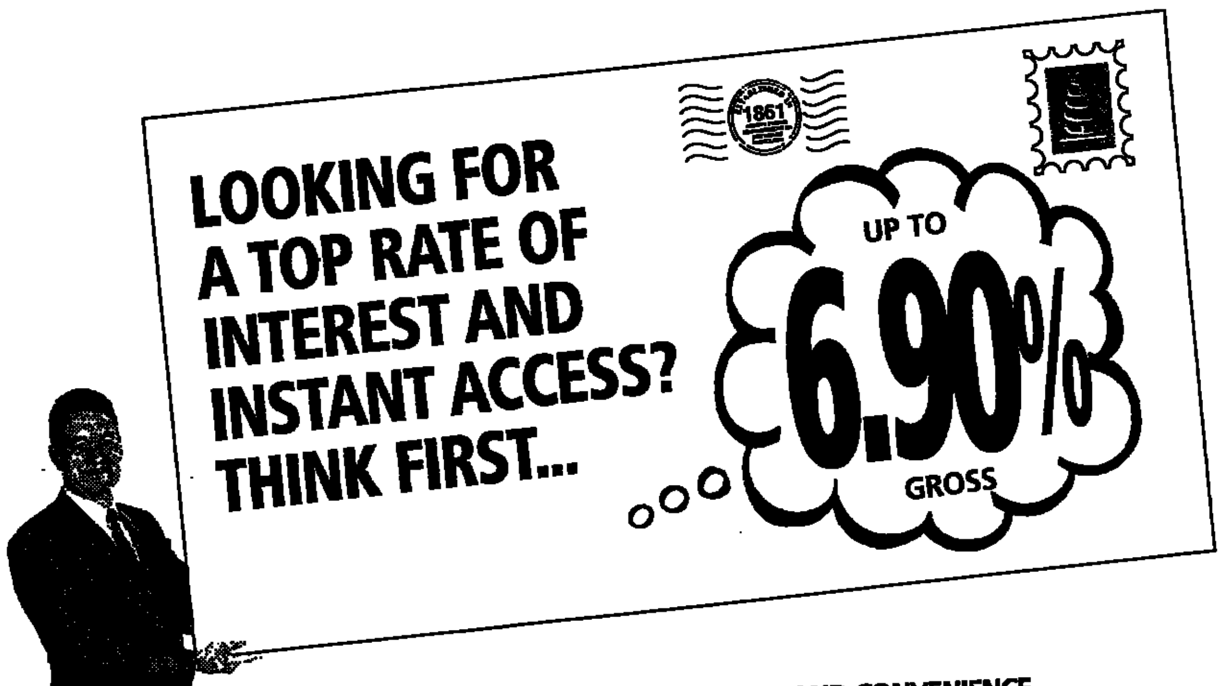

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Karen Zagor delights in the experience of buying a house in Canada

Property boom: the power and drive of Toronto's estate agents help to make buying and selling quick and painless

New home could be yours in just one day

Buying a house can be as speedy and painless as buying a new car. I know because last week I bought a house in 24 hours. The secret is to move to Canada, where gazumping does not exist. But if the Labour Government succeeds in changing the rules of house buying and selling, then my experience may become the norm in Britain.

My husband and I had not expected to become homeowners when we landed in Toronto two weeks ago. We were merely scouting the market before moving back to Canada in the autumn. We had severely underestimated the drive and the power of Toronto real estate agents.

In London, our quest for a home of our own had been thwarted by the inertia of estate agents. We met resistance at every stage. Most agents would not show properties on Saturday afternoons, Sundays or after 7pm during the week — an arrangement which is almost useless for working couples. Although we were listed with about ten agencies, our phone rarely rang. Yet we knew there were homeowners desperately trying to sell. In the end we gave up and rented a flat.

The Toronto experience could not have been more different. Our plane landed at midday on the Saturday of a Bank Holiday weekend. When we left a late afternoon message on an estate agent's answering machine, we expected to hear back from her on Tuesday. We were mistaken. Within an hour Joanna Byro had called. Within three hours she had arranged for us to see four houses on the Sunday.

Canadian real estate agents have certain advantages over their British counterparts. First, they really want to make money and will work long hours and sometimes sacrifice some of their own commission to close a deal. Secondly, they have more power at the contract-signing stage. Canadians do not need a lawyer to process their property purchases. Although many will hire a lawyer to examine the deeds to ensure that there are no restrictive covenants, they do so purely as a matter of convenience.

> Canadians do not need to employ lawyers to process their property purchases

Estate agents also have access to the Multiple Listing Services (MLS), a database of almost all the properties on the market. Agents like exclusive property listings because they get more commission. However, if the property does not sell quickly they put it on the MLS where every agent in the country has access to it.

Once the property is on the MLS, the listing agent must share the commission with the agent who shows, and subsequently sells, the property.

For a seller, MLS means that more people can find out about your home. For a buyer, MLS is brilliant. Instead of dealing with a multitude of estate agents, you tend to look with one agent exclusively. Your agent enters your needs on the computer — such as size of house, location and garden — and brings up the details of all suitable properties. If you see a "For Sale" sign in front of a house you like the look of, your agent will find out all the necessary information and arrange a viewing.

Agents may earn commission from the seller, but they work hard for the buyer. Joanna showed us 20 houses before we found one we liked. By the end of the week she knew our taste, which saved us looking at properties she knew we would hate.

By Thursday evening, we had found our house. On Friday morning, after a second viewing, we made our offer through Joanna. During the rest of the day and into the evening, she shuttled between us and the buyer as we negotiated. Our first two offers, each written into a contract, were rejected. Finally, at 9pm, when only C$1,000 (£454) separated our offer from the owner's reduced asking price, Joanna cut her commission and the deal was done.

On Saturday morning we boarded the plane to London, contract in hand, knowing that we had a binding agreement. Under Canadian law, once a written offer is officially accepted, the owner cannot accept higher bids unless he receives an unconditional offer. Our offer was conditional on financing and an acceptable home survey.

During the week in Toronto we had prearranged a mortgage, and on Monday we wired our deposit from London. The survey was completed on Wednesday night.

We were surprised at how quickly everything could be arranged and how reasonable the fees are. Our total expenditure was C$5,821 (£2,622). This includes a mere C$600 of legal fees, C$3,785 in land transfer tax (the equivalent of stamp duty) and C$321 for the survey. Our only risk was that the survey would reveal a fatal flaw in the building, making us retract our offer. If that had happened, we would have lost the survey fee only. If we pulled out after a satisfactory survey, we would have lost our deposit.

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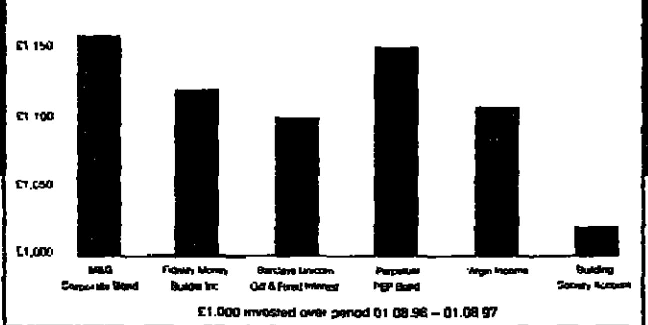

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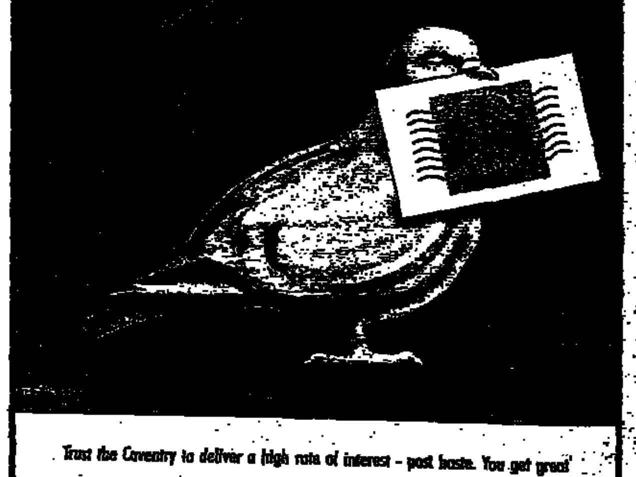

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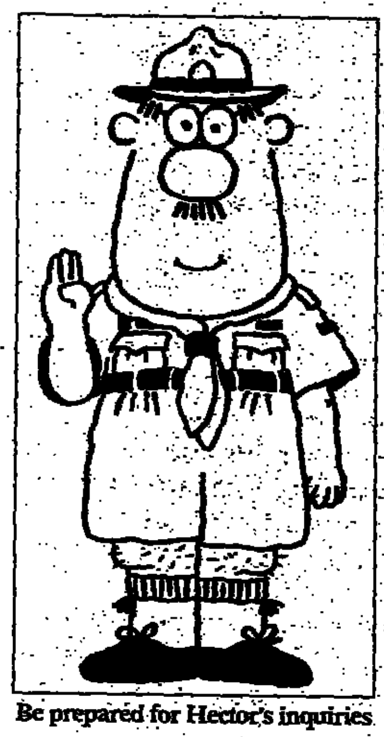
Revenue poised for investigations

An estimated 7,500 taxpayers have already been selected at random to have their tax affairs investigated under the new self-assessment regime, the Inland Reveneu revealed this week. They may be among the 5.5 million people who have not yet filed their 1996-97 return, but their names are held "under lock and key" at local tax offices.


Be prepared for Hector's inquiries

If you are one of the eight million people who have to fill in a tax return, you have a one in 1,000 chance of being randomly picked. If you are self-employed you will then be subjected to a full inquiry, with your books and records scrutinised.

However, if you are an employee whose main income is taxed at source or your tax affairs are simple, you may never even know your name came up because the Revenue already has most of the information it needs to check your return.

The Revenue justifies random checking of returns on the grounds that it will instil fear of detection into tax dodgers and will help tax officials to assess the effectiveness of their assessment of high-risk returns. It has rejected calls to tell taxpayers if their names come up, arguing that it wants to maintain "the neutral, fact-finding and non-confrontational approach we would like to see in inquiry work".

A further 40,000 to 50,000 taxpayers will find their completed returns subject to inquiries by the taxman. Some of these people may also be on the random list. Returns will be chosen according to the risk the Revenue thinks it runs that they are incomplete or incorrect. Under self-assessment, the Revenue has new powers to make further inquiries about any tax return. Inspectors will not wait until the final deadline of the end of January 1998 to start inquiries, and 200 have already started. There are two types of inquiry, full and aspect. A full inquiry means all your books and records will be gone through and your whole tax return scrutinised. An aspect inquiry will concentrate on certain parts of the return, such as personal pension relief or capital gains tax calculations. But you could face a full inquiry if the aspect inquiry throws up other discrepancies.

Most self-employed people and businesses can expect full inquiries, while those with simpler affairs can probably expect an aspect enquiry.

Bernadette Hurcombe, of the Revenue's self-assessment compliance division, said: "Not all inquiries will be deep and searching. Some are simple and easy to resolve and they could result in repayment to the taxpayer."

Taxpayers have to be given formal notice of an inquiry, which can start at any time until January 1999.

The Revenue attacked as "myth" suggestions that those who filed their returns early were more likely to face an inquiry. It argued that it would not make sense to discourage people from filing early, which helps to spread the processing workload. Those who file early are also more likely to have simpler tax affairs.

To date, the Revenue has received back 2.5 million of the eight million returns it has sent out, 700,000 more than expected at this stage. Of these it has processed 1.7 million. But an estimated 6 per cent of these are wrong and have to be returned. In some cases, this has been because the taxpayer has forgotten to sign the return, in others because the Revenue cannot correct the numbers without more information.

SARA MCCONNELL

Ensure you are not caught napping

Get away from it all with offshore portfolio package

Jill Insley sizes up an attempt by Scottish Life to avoid the stress of self-assessment

Most right-minded people who have to fill in a tax return regard self-assessment as a pain. At best it will take up valuable hours to fill in the simplest return; at worst, it will fill whole weekends with aggravation and suffering before the taxpayer gives in and hands over invoices, bills and income records to an accountant.

But is the situation so bad that it warrants moving your investment portfolio offshore? Scottish Life International thinks so. The company says that maintaining accurate income records and tracking gains for every investment within an actively managed portfolio of unit trusts and investment trusts could now be "an uneconomic and administrative burden for many UK investors". Those who fail to keep adequate documents could face fines of up to £3,000 per missing item.

HIT OR MISS

Scottish Life International claims that its new offshore investment bond, the Self Investment Portfolio, can save investors from all this stress. The bond itself is not an investment. Instead, it acts as a "wrapper" for the funds the investor chooses from a list of more than 100 approved management groups.

From these, Scottish Life International has nominated ten firms as "elite" investment managers with whom it has negotiated discounts off the normal fund charges. Unsurprisingly, these include Scottish Life and Kleinwort Benson, the company's backers.

Like all investment bonds, the Self Investment Portfolio is classed as a non-income producing asset by the Inland Revenue. This means it does not have to be entered on an investor's self-assessment tax return unless the investor takes an income of more than 5 per cent of the initial investment in any tax year or cashes in the entire bond.

To ensure that investors can withdraw small tranches of money easily, the bond can be split into a maximum of 100 different policies, each with a minimum value of £2,500.

The bond is based offshore in the Isle of Man and offers the further advantage of allowing investors' money to grow tax-free. Although the gains derived from offshore bonds are liable to tax once they are realised and brought into the UK, Scottish Life International says medium to long-term investors are likely to find offshore bonds more tax-efficient.

However, any advantage that UK resident investors gain is likely to be wiped out as soon as they start paying the bond's charges. The 8 per cent set-up charge is high compared with the average 5 per cent initial charge for UK-based unit trusts. The company also makes a £300 annual policy fee (linked to the Isle of Man RPI) and a 0.25 per cent annual management charge. Someone investing the minimum £50,000 would pay £5,625 in charges over the first five years, even before taking the underlying fund charges into account.

Paradise lost: the charges make Scottish Life's offshore investment bond less than idyllic

In comparison, Clark Whitehill, the chartered accountants, estimates that it would charge about £400 a year (or £2,000 over five years) to organise the tax return for a £50,000 investment portfolio.

Ian Millward, of Chase de Vere Investments, says: "It's no more expensive than other offshore companies. The whole offshore industry operates this way, and it's a pretty shoddy way of doing it."

John Edwards, of Berry Birch & Noble, adds that offshore companies tend to make all kinds of additional charges. Mr Edwards reckons that clients who are resident in the UK should stick to onshore-based investments. He says: "If you have got £50,000, you can probably buy something better."

Score: ★★

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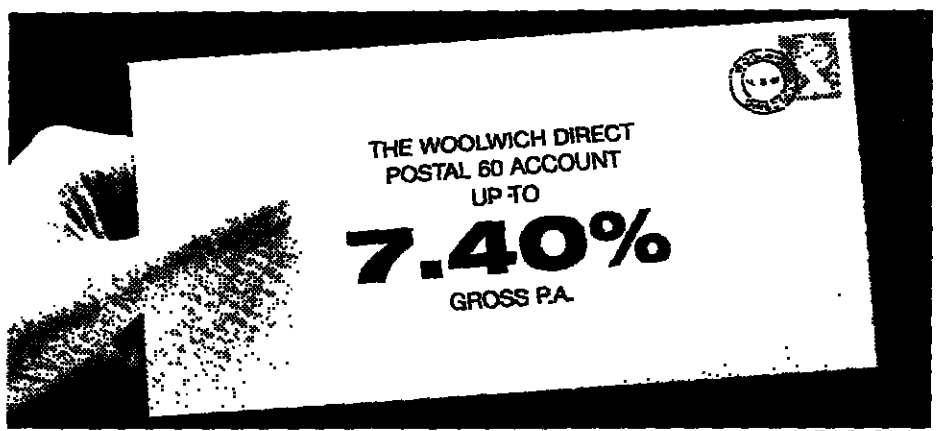

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

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☐ If you are approaching retirement age or are already retired, a new book written by Rosemary Brown could prove useful. In addition to highlighting the variety of opportunities available — from leisure activities to voluntary work — *Your Retirement — How to Make the Most of It* includes comprehensive advice on tax planning, pensions, investment and money-saving ideas, social security benefits and wills. It is published by Kogan Page on August 20, priced £8.99.

☐ The end of the summer holidays sees a 50 per cent increase in the number of people visiting a family solicitor. However, many people have no idea how to choose a legal firm. Around 15,000 solicitors regularly undertake family law cases, but only 29 per cent of these are specialists in the area, according to the Solicitors Family Law Association. The association has published a leaflet to help people thinking of divorce to choose the right solicitor. For the location of your nearest SFLA or for a copy of the leaflet, call 0345 585671.

☐ Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, has produced a free guide to investment risk. *Some Principles of Investing* explains the fundamentals of risk and also shows the different levels of risk available and the types of investment product which cater for each risk level. Call 0345 889933.

☐ A convenient alternative to traveller's cheques has arrived with the launch of Visa TravelMoney. This electronic traveller's cheque can be preloaded with holiday money and withdrawals can be made from the 341,000 cash machines in 112 countries. The card is available from Thomas Cook by calling 01733 318900.

LIZANNE ROSE

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C&G(Rate w.e.f 1.9.97)0800 742437	Inst Transfer	Inst b	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£10,000	7.00	Yly
Alliance & Leic 0845 6088860	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.25	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	*Account*	*Notice of term*	*Deposit*	*Rate*	*Interest paid*
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.50	Yly
Leopold Joseph 0171 5882323	40 Day Notice	40 day	£10,000	7.10	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.55	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£25,000	7.65	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F/Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.55	Yly
Melton Mowbray BS 01664 63937		5 year	£1,000	7.50	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	7.45	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

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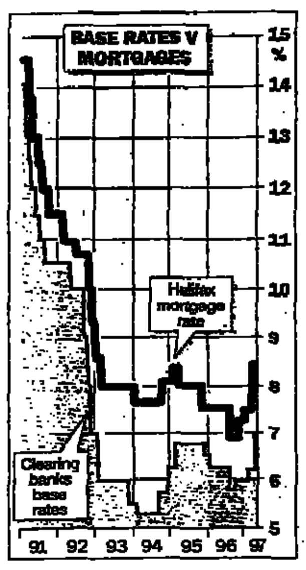
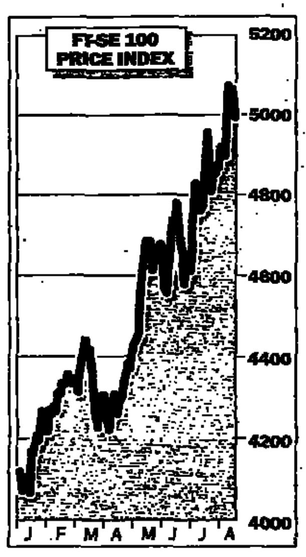
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*₆	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**⁷	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*₆	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond₄	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†₃	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds₆	6.85	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†₃	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3₆	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000₅	60day	0645 645000

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₃Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁴0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁶Taxable but cred in full ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Norwich Un ....Level	£ 9,468	£10,476	£11,816
Equitable Lf..........Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675
Royal Sun All ....Level	£ 9,249	£10,398	£11,951
Sun Life ....Level	£ 9,207	£10,327	£11,840
Standard Lf ....Level	£ 9,224	£10,316	£11,732

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,865	£ 9,673	£10,860
Canada Life ....Level	£8,800	£ 9,614	£10,804
Generali ....Level	£8,624	£ 9,547	£10,816
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,750	£ 9,513	£10,664
Royal Sun All ....Level	£8,509	£ 9,365	£10,612

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Norwich Un ....Level	£8,567	£9,097	£ 9,761
Canada Life ....Level	£8,370	£8,994	£ 9,878
Prudential ....Level	£8,386	£8,921	£ 9,743
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547
Allied Dunbar ....Level	£8,259	£8,803	£ 9,552

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at August 14, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.00
	5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.80*
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.50
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.75
4 Years			
	1,000	*Hambro Assured*	*6.30*
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.25
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.70

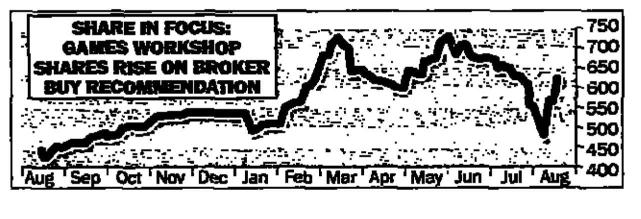
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.
* Limited edition.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross *coupon*	Buying *price*	% Gross *yield*	Issue *price*	Minimum purchase *amount*
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	118.81	7.863	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	143.15	8.121	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	*13.000%*	*159.99*	*8.126*	*100.20*	*10,000*
Britannia	13.000%	159.21	8.165	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	153.44	7.844	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	142.59	8.240	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	*13.375%*	*165.19*	*8.097*	*100.23*	*1,000*
Newcastle	10.750%	131.89	8.116	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	155.39	8.125	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	154.64	8.164	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	*159.04*	*8.096*	*100.48*	*1,000*

FLOATING RATE ·	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	*9.04063%*	*117.00*	*100.00*	*1,000*
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	104.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source. ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed to 1.10.99
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	£15k+	85	2.10% disc-2yrs
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc-6 mth 3% disc-6 mths
Abbey National 0800 555100	*4.99*	*to £125k*	*75*	*Fixed to 31.10.99*

LARGER LOANS

Lender	*Interest rate %*	*Loan size*	*Max %*	*Notes*
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	0.99	*to £180k*	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% dsc-12 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.61%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Abbey National 01908 343400	4.99	to £125k	75	Fixed until 31.10.99

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Cheshire 0800 243278	5.84	£30-150k	95	2% discount for 2 years
Coventry 01203 555255	5.95	to £80k	95	2.25% disc for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.05% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.20	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99, .5%over svr-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE				
0131 339 9191				
Balanced	577.30	611.00	- 5.80	..
UK Equity	775.20	820.40	- 8.00	...
Property	444.30	470.20	- 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	370.80	392.40	- 0.20	..
Money	277.00	293.20	+ 0.30	...
International	494.30	523.10	-11.80	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL				
01202 292373				
Custodian S4	214.00	225.30	- 0.40	...
Ethical S4	174.00	183.20	+ 3.20	...
International S4	245.40	258.40	- 4.20	..
Protected Gth S4	130.00	136.90	...	0.00
Asian Pacific	227.80	239.80	- 7.20	...
European S4	262.00	275.80	- 6.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	427.50	450.10	- 0.30	..
Equity Ser 4	306.00	322.20	+ 1.20	..
Man Ser 4	874.30	920.30	- 0.70	...
Conv Ser 4	363.90	383.10	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	363.50	382.70	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	423.20	445.60	- 0.80	...
American Ser 4	834.80	878.80	-23.80	...
High Inc Ser 4	947.40	997.30	- 0.40	...
Indexed Ins Ser 4	239.90	252.60	+ 0.80	..
Japan Ser 4	319.50	335.30	- 0.40	.
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ				
01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2167.20	2281.30	- 8.90	.
European Fd Acc	565.00	594.70	-14.20	...
Fixed Int Acc	599.80	631.40	+ 0.90	...
Gtd Money Acc	370.10	389.50	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	852.50	897.30	- 8.30	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	375.00	394.70	+ 0.10	...
Japan Fund	278.90	293.50	+ 3.40	...
N American Acc	495.50	521.60	-13.70	...
Prop Fd Acc	502.20	528.60	- 2.10	...
Multiple Ins Acc	1355.40	1426.70	-10.10	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL				
01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	415.70	437.60	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1971.40	2075.20	-41.10	..
Property Acc	706.40	743.60	+ 1.00	...
Far East Acc	350.70	369.20	-14.00	...
Managed Capital	682.50	718.50	-11.40	...
-do- Acc	1478.10	1555.90	-24.50	.
Overseas Acc	1385.00	1457.90	-13.70	..
Gilt Edged Acc	591.50	622.70	+ 1.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	1366.40	1438.40	-59.10	...
Amer Man Acc	564.60	594.40	-22.90	...
Amer Prop Acc	120.50	126.90	- 0.30	...
Distribution Bonds	27.30	28.80	- 0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks				
01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	184.60	194.30	+ 0.20	...
Balanced Ser 6	974.70	1025.90	-17.30	...
Opportunity Ser 6	226.70	238.60	- 4.60	...
Distribution Ser 6	108.40	114.10	- 3.20	6.40
UK Equities Ser 6	1461.70	1538.60	-19.00	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1480.80	1558.70	+ 0.20	...
North Amer Ser 6	703.40	740.40	-31.70	...
Far East Ser 6	607.40	639.30	-21.10	...
Europe Ser 6	568.10	598.10	-23.00	...
Intnl Ser 6	766.90	807.20	-27.50	...
Property Ser 6	624.30	657.10	+ 0.70	..
Fixed Int Ser 6	515.00	542.10	+ 0.40	..
Ind-Linkd Sec S6	208.60	219.60	+ 1.00	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	331.20	348.60	+ 0.30	..
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB				
0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1258.20	1324.50	- 9.80	..
-do- Initial	756.00	796.80	- 5.40	...
Gilt Edged Acc	470.40	495.60	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	285.70	300.80	+ 0.10	..
International Acc	514.90	542.00	- 9.80	...
-do- Initial	310.50	326.80	- 5.90	...
Managed Acc	720.10	758.10	- 7.40	..
-do- Initial	435.70	458.70	- 4.50	...
Money Acc	323.00	340.10	+ 0.20	...
Property Acc	335.50	353.20	+ 0.10	...
-do- Initial	202.20	212.90	- 0.10	...
America Acc	474.20	499.20	-13.90	...
Far East Gwth	278.10	292.80	-14.90	...
Financial Acc	568.40	598.60	- 6.90	...
500 Accum	531.60	559.60	- 8.70	...
Japan Acc	253.10	266.50	- 7.20	...
Income Acc	726.50	764.80	- 2.00	...
Leisure Acc	331.60	349.10	- 0.10	...
Special Sits Acc	385.70	406.10	- 3.30	...
Univ Tech Acc	211.10	222.30	- 4.40	.
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF				
01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	1080.89	1140.80	- 8.54	.
Income Fund	1055.74	1111.35	- 3.04	...
Extra Income	938.39	987.78	- 0.46	...
Worldwide Gth	635.76	669.21	- 1.02	...
Balanced Fund	929.35	978.27	- 6.23	...
Smllr Cos Recvn	1075.16	1131.75	+37.83	...
N Amer & Genrl	567.87	597.76	-12.90	..
Pacific Basin	448.34	471.94	- 4.99	.
German Growth	316.44	333.10	- 0.44	...
Japan Growth	171.55	180.58	+ 3.02	...
The UK Gth Fd	301.47	317.34	- 1.81	...
Contl Euro Gth	197.58	207.98	- 0.01	...
Property Fund	436.90	459.90	+ 1.43	...
Fixed Interest	392.82	413.50	- 0.83	...
Cash Fund	313.98	330.40	+ 0.25	...
Managed Int	642.29	676.10	- 5.45	...
Nth Amer Recvy	363.12	382.24	- 3.13	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	567.47	597.34	- 6.29	...
BRITANNIA				
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR				
0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	232.90	246.50	+ 1.60	...
Performance Plus	273.10	289.00	- 5.00	...
With Profit Perf	195.90	207.21	+ 0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	300.60	318.00	+ 4.00	...
Euro Opportunity	321.10	339.80	- 7.50	...
North Amer Opp	294.40	311.50	- 8.00	...
Far East Opp	237.80	251.60	+ 2.30	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	178.80	188.20	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.40	229.00	- 0.10	...
Fixed Int	243.40	257.60	...	...
Cash	175.70	185.80	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	314.80	333.10	+ 5.70	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	487.90	513.60	+ 3.30	...
UK Equity	909.40	957.30	+12.20	...
Property	298.70	314.50	- 0.10	.
Money Market	278.40	293.10	- 0.30	..
Fixed Interest	353.60	372.30	...	...
Japan	341.50	359.50	+ 3.50	...
North America	262.00	275.80	- 7.10	...
International	486.40	512.00	- 8.70	...
European	410.70	432.40	- 9.60	...
Far East	176.10	185.40	+ 1.70	..
CANADA LIFE				
26 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA				
01707 51122				
Managed	443.10	466.50	- 3.50	...
Property	286.50	301.60	+ 0.10	..
Gilt & Fxd Int	284.50	299.50	- 0.30	.
Equity	543.20	571.80	- 3.60	..
Cash	237.30	249.80	+ 0.30	..
CLife Euro Mgd	520.60	548.00	-10.50	..
CLife Intl Fd	423.10	445.40	- 7.20	...
Managed Fund	946.10	995.90	- 7.50	.
Property Fund	581.20	611.80	+ 0.70	...
Equity Fund	1340.50	1411.00	- 8.80	..
Gilt Edged Fd	733.40	772.50	- 0.90	
Deposit Fund	367.00	386.30	+ 0.30	..
Investment Fd	597.50	627.30	- 9.40	.
International	673.40	708.80	-11.50	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	186.00	195.80	...	...
Managed Fund	868.70	914.50	-10.40	..
Equity Fund	526.90	554.70	- 6.60	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	385.80	406.20	- 2.40	...
Ruby	221.40	233.10	+ 0.30	...
Emerald	166.80	175.60	+ 0.20	...
Equity	460.20	484.50	- 2.10	...
Property	250.20	263.40	+ 0.20	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	246.50	259.50	+ 0.10	..
Indexed Secs	191.60	201.70	+ 0.90	..
Cash	206.90	217.80	+ 0.10	...
Nth American	372.90	392.60	-11.00	..
Far East	327.20	344.50	- 1.60	..
International	318.80	335.60	- 4.40	.
Special Sits	479.40	504.70	- 8.10	...
Intl Income	421.00	443.20	- 0.50	...
European	495.60	521.70	- 5.40	.
Japanese	132.50	139.50	+ 0.60	
SE Asia	446.50	470.00	-13.70	...
With Profits Reg	194.30	204.60	+ 0.10	...
-do- Spec	194.30	204.60	+ 0.10	..
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	463.10	487.50	- 1.70	...
Equity	596.70	627.10	- 2.10	..
Property	234.20	246.60	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	321.50	338.50	+ 0.40	...
Index Linked	205.10	216.00	+ 1.10	..
Cash	286.20	301.30	+ 0.30	.
Nth American	470.50	495.30	-16.40	...
Far East Acc	355.90	374.70	- 2.90	...
International Acc	402.10	423.30	- 9.10	...
Special Sits	746.50	785.80	-13.60	..
European Flex	727.20	765.50	-17.30	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY 01634 890 000				
(Units: Key)	274.25		+ 9.03	
-do- Pacemaker 1	426.69	...	-16.72	..
-do- Cash	223.36	235.11	- 0.18	
-do- Equity	759.41	799.38	- 8.28	
-do- Fxd Int	433.07	455.86	- 0.65	.
-do- Managed	535.36	563.54	- 6.11	..
-do- Property	381.30	401.37	+ 1.70	
(Pens). Cash Cap	217.47	228.92	+ 0.11	..
-do- Cash Inv	349.80	368.32	+ 0.43	...
-do- Equity Cap	2014.70	2120.75	-25.27	...
-do- Equity Inv	3241.47	3412.09	-38.34	..
-do- Fixed Cap	464.68	489.14	- 0.98	.
-do- Fixed Inv	747.43	786.99	- 1.04	..
-do- Index Cap	217.97	229.45	+ 3.23	...
-do- Index Inv	350.70	369.16	+ 2.23	.
-do- Mngd Cap	783.94	825.20	-10.68	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1261.37	1327.77	-15.95	..
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	1130.64	.	- 0.48	...
Var Ann (5) 1	125.37	..		...
Prime Managed	537.40	565.70	- 9.20	.
Prime UK Equity	705.40	742.60	- 8.90	.
Prime Intl Equity	370.50	390.40	-13.50	...
Prime Property	264.00	277.90	+ 0.40	..
Prime Fxd Int	273.30	287.70	- 0.10	..
Prime Index-Lnk	193.20	203.40	+ 0.90	..
Prime Cash	228.00	240.10	+ 0.20	..
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN				
01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1461.90	1538.80		0.01
Equity II	2179.60	2294.30	...	..
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ.				
01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (5&6) 1	119.80	...	+ 0.20	..
Secure (2) 1	110.10	...	+ 0.10	.
Managed (2) 1	130.40		- 2.30	...
Equity Mngd (3) 1	131.30		- 2.70	...
Adventurous (3) 1	123.10	.	- 4.70	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) 1	111.80	...	- 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	318.30	335.10	- 7.10	.
Managed S1	315.60	332.30	- 5.90	...
Adventurous S1	255.00	268.50	-10.30	
Managed (2)	213.50	224.80	- 4.00	..
Eagle/Mid Uts	414.80	429.90	- 0.40	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) 1	115.80	...	+ 0.30	..
Secure (2) 1	110.60	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) 1	*129.60*	...	- 2.70	..
Equity Mngd (2) 1	132.00	.	- 3.40	..
Adventurous (2) 1	123.80	...	- 5.70	...
Bristol & West (2) 1	112.40	...	+ 0.20	.
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH				
01722 413366				
Managed	422.80	445.10	- 4.70	.
UK Equity	585.20	616.10	- 4.00	..
Stewardship	484.50	510.00	+ 5.50	..
Overseas Equity	394.60	415.40	- 7.20	
North American	240.60	253.30	- 6.10	...
Pacific Basin	194.10	204.40	- 4.70	...
European	380.90	401.00	- 8.90	...
Property	196.90	207.30	+ 1.40	...
Fixed Interest	287.10	302.30	+ 0.20	..
Index Linked	193.50	203.70	+ 0.70	.
Cash	223.10	234.90	+ 0.20	
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	637.20	670.70	- 2.80	...
Managed	946.90	996.70	-12.10	..
Deposit	381.00	401.00	+ 0.20	...
Property	530.90	558.80	+ 0.60	...
American	670.60	705.80	-18.80	..
Australian	733.50	772.10	- 0.90	
European	893.50	940.50	-23.90	...
Income Acc	1020.90	1074.60	- 5.80	.
-do- Dist	555.90	584.70	- 3.90	4.43
International	414.40	436.20	- 8.00	...
Japan Smaller	366.40	385.60	+ 1.10	.
Singapore & Mal	450.40	474.60	-23.20	.
Smaller Cos	600.10	631.80	- 7.20	...
Tokyo Fund	649.80	684.00	+ 5.30	.
UK Equity	818.90	862.00	- 8.00	...
CCM Vangd Mg	1009.90	1063.00	- 9.00	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	361.00	380.00	-11.30	.
GT Plan Wwide	615.20	648.30	-11.00	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	859.40	859.40	- 7.10	..
-do- Inv A	859.30	904.70	- 7.40	..
UK Equity	563.10	592.90	- 0.70	...
Gilt Plus	234.80	247.30	+ 0.10	...
Managed	391.20	411.80	- 3.30	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	281.70	296.40	- 4.30	.
Unitised Profit	165.40	174.10	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	416.10	437.90	- 2.00	.
Fixed Int	230.40	242.40	+ 0.10	...
Index-Linked	186.10	195.80	- 0.90	.
Cash Deposit	192.50	202.60	+ 0.20	.
Property	192.10	202.10	+ 0.30	...
International	229.80	241.80	- 2.30	.
American	268.00	282.00	-10.40	.
Japan	227.70	239.60	- 4.50	.
Japan Smllr Cos	233.20	245.40	- 4.60	.
European	256.90	270.30	-10.90	..
Pacific Fund	317.00	333.50	-18.80	..
Conv Life	173.50	182.50	- 0.10	.
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	643.20	677.10	- 9.70	...
Managed Initial	397.30	418.20	- 6.40	...
Equity Ord	1051.90	1107.30	- 5.00	...
Equity Init	649.80	684.00	- 3.60	.
I-Linked Gilt Ord	226.90	238.80	+ 1.10	.
I-Linked Gilt Init	146.40	154.10	+ 0.60	.
Overs Equity Ord	490.80	516.60	-20.50	.
Overs Equity Init	303.20	319.20	-12.60	..
Property Ord	298.40	314.10	+ 0.30	..
Property Init	184.30	194.00		.
Fixed Int Ord	336.90	354.60	+ 0.30	..
Fixed Int Init	208.10	219.10	..	.
Deposit Ord	229.60	241.70	+ 0.20	.
Deposit Initial	141.80	149.30	...	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	920.80	969.30		.
Managed Initial	599.80	631.40	- 4.50	...
-do- Acc	908.70	956.50	- 6.60	...
Equity Initial	973.00	1024.20	- 4.10	
-do- Acc	1474.10	1551.70	- 5.90	.
Fixed Int Initial	496.90	522.60	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc	752.20	791.80	+ 1.00	...
Intl Initial	566.50	595.80	-10.40	
-do- Acc	843.10	887.50	-15.40	...
Nth Amer Initial	295.50	311.00	- 7.10	...
-do- Acc	407.40	428.90	- 9.50	.
Pacific Initial	228.40	240.40	- 2.90	.
-do- Acc	312.00	328.40	- 3.80	.
Property Initial	191.10	201.20	..	.
-do- Acc	289.30	304.50	..	.
Index-Lnkd Init	172.90	182.00	+ 0.60	.
-do- Acc	238.40	251.00	+ 1.00	.
Deposit Initial	207.50	218.50	+ 0.20	.
-do- Acc	314.40	331.00	+ 0.30	.
Euro Initial	145.50	153.10	- 3.30	.
-do- Acc	185.90	195.10	- 4.90	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	34.27	36.07	+ 0.20	..
Balanced	34.29	36.09	- 0.55	
Opportunity	34.91	36.75	- 0.44	
Deposit	26.24	27.62	+ 0.03	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation S2	26.71	28.12	- 0.08	
Balanced S2	27.23	28.77	- 0.30	...
Opportunity S2	26.57	27.97	- 0.18	.
Deposit S2	24.51	25.80	+ 0.03	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	228.70	240.70	+ 1.30	...
-do- Pens	299.30	315.00	+ 1.80	...
UK Equity	251.90	265.10	+ 3.00	...
-do- Pens	311.20	327.50	+ 4.10	...
International	198.40	208.80	+ 2.00	...
-do- Pens	225.80	237.60	- 2.70	..
Deposit	154.20	162.30	+ 0.20	.
-do- Pens	188.70	198.60	+ 0.30	..
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon				
0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	754.30	794.30	+ 5.30	...
British Fund	815.40	862.90	- 9.70	...
International	722.20	764.30	-23.30	...
Dollar Fund	659.60	698.00	-31.90	...
Capital Fund	672.00	711.20	-13.30	.
Income Fund	1014.30	1073.40	- 8.40	..
Property Series A	536.30	567.60	+ 2.30	4.30
Property Units	894.70	934.50	- 4.00	...
Financial Fund	984.70	1042.10	-14.70	..
Managed Ser A	734.40	777.20	-11.10	.
Managed Units	1327.60	1397.50	-20.00	..
High Yield Fund	897.90	950.20	- 4.00	
Money Series A	321.70	340.50	- 0.30	...
Money Units	430.80	453.50	+ 0.50	..
Equity Fund	855.20	905.00	-15.40	..
Fixed Interest	450.20	476.50	+ 2.30	...
Indexed Secs	210.70	223.00	+ 1.60	...
European Fund	1076.50	1139.20	-31.70	...
Natural Res	313.00	331.20	- 7.90	..
Far East Fund	646.40	684.10	-24.60	.
Smaller Cos	663.00	701.60	-21.20	.
Special Sits	689.00	729.20	-13.60	...
Man Currency	287.00	303.80	+ 0.30	...
Japanese Tech	321.20	339.90	- 2.80	...
US Smaller Cos	507.90	537.50	-19.20	..
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd				
Deposit	274.90	289.30	+ 0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	87.60	94.00	- 1.40	...
Fixed Interest	387.50	408.00	+ 2.20	...
Gold	79.90	84.20	- 0.90	.
Managed	813.50	856.20	-13.60	..
Mngd Growth	258.40	272.10	- 4.40	
Mngd Opp	275.20	289.80	- 4.70	..
Property	391.20	411.90		..
Residential Prop	123.10	129.70	...	.
TSB American	377.60	397.60	-15.70	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1261.40	1327.90	-14.50	...
TSB European	403.50	424.80	- 7.40	
TSB Income	592.10	623.40	- 2.80	..
TSB Intl	553.40	583.20	-16.10	..
TSB Intl Inc	362.10	381.30	...	.
TSB Pacific	446.10	469.60	-15.20	..
TSB Prem Inc	341.40	356.70	...	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48191				
Global Managed	781.70	822.10	-12.60	...
Global Property	330.70	348.10	...	...
Global Fixed Int	615.90	648.30	- 2.60	
Global Equity	863.40	908.80	-15.70	..
Global Cash	237.50	250.00	+ 0.30	
For Laurentian see Lincoln				
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE				
01273 724000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.60	141.90	...	.
-do- Acc	200.00	210.60	+ 0.20	..
Brit Opps Init	191.70	201.80	- 0.10	.
-do- Acc	257.60	271.40	- 0.20	...
Cash Initial	171.90	181.00	+ 0.20	.
-do- Acc	320.60	337.50	+ 0.30	...
Equity Initial	904.60	952.30	- 8.80	..
-do- Acc	1687.00	1775.80	-16.70	..
Fixed Initial	385.70	406.00	+ 0.30	..
-do- Acc	719.30	757.20	+ 0.60	..
Index-Lnkd Gilt	141.90	149.40	+ 1.10	...
-do- Acc	225.30	237.70	+ 1.80	..
Intl Initial	375.60	395.40	-12.80	..
-do- Acc	689.70	726.00	-23.40	.
Managed Initial	599.40	631.00	- 9.70	...
-do- Acc	1118.00	1176.90	-17.90	...
Property Initial	231.60	243.80	+ 0.30	..
-do- Acc	431.90	454.70	+ 0.50	..
LINCOLN				
The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	[illegible]		-172.00	..
Property Units	3072.30	3233.00	+ 1.00	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	8756.30	9217.00	-134.00	..
2nd Equity Acc	895.70	942.80	- 5.80	..
2nd High Inc Acc	385.20	405.40	- 3.60	.
2nd Property Acc	275.80	290.30	+ 0.20	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	210.40	221.40	- 1.30	..
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	607.70	639.50	- 9.40	..
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	293.30	308.60	- 7.10	
2nd Deposit Acc	314.70	331.20	+ 0.30	.
2nd Gilt Acc	157.90	171.40	+ 0.50	.
2nd Amer Acc	1093.00	1150.50	-41.00	.
2nd Intl Mny Acc	236.60	249.40	- 2.80	.
2nd Index Acc	232.90	245.10	+ 1.00	...
2nd Far East Acc	410.90	432.50	-29.10	..
2nd Global Acc	206.00	217.30	- 7.20	...
2nd Euro Acc	220.50	232.00	- 7.20	...
2nd Japan Acc	159.50	167.90	- 4.60	.
2nd Intl Fx Bd Acc	175.50	185.00	- 2.00	
2nd Cap Gth Acc	169.90	178.80	- 1.30	..
ex-Laurentian				
Property	587.40	618.50	+ 0.30	...
Managed	546.20	574.90	- 9.40	..
American	620.90	654.70	-24.40	.
UK Equity Fd	650.40	684.50	- 6.30	..
Japan	175.70	184.90	- 5.10	..
Index-Lkd	209.00	219.90	+ 0.90	..
High Yield	1195.00	1257.00	- 5.00	
Money	447.10	470.60	+ 0.40	
International	464.70	489.40	-16.00	...
Perpetual Active	420.50	442.60	- 6.40	
Growth Acc	854.20	900.00	-13.30	
Gilt Edged	508.60	533.20	- 0.70	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	201.20	211.70	- 6.60	...
Far East	217.30	228.70	-15.40	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA				
0117 984 7777				
Equity 1	1241.30	..	-23.10	...
Fixed Interest 1	516.30	...	+ 0.90	...
Property 1	475.80	...	- 0.30	..
Deposit 1	328.50	...	+ 0.30	..
Mixed 1	777.60	...	-16.20	...
Indexed Stock 1	250.30	...	+ 1.60	...
International 1	395.50	..	-13.70	..
Equity A 1	287.00	...	- 5.30	...
Fixed Int A 1	228.20	...	+ 0.30	...
Property A 1	208.40	...	- 0.20	...
Deposit A 1	192.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed A 1	254.60	...	- 5.30	...
Index Stock A 1	195.30	...	+ 1.30	...
International A 1	221.30	...	- 8.50	...
Equity P 1	1089.40	...	-26.20	...
Fixed Int P 1	715.40	...	+ 1.30	...
Property P 1	374.20	...	+ 0.50	...
Deposit P 1	396.40	...	+ 0.50	...
Mixed P 1	746.90	...	-19.00	...
Index Stock P 1	287.90	...	+ 1.50	...
International P 1	430.70	...	-20.20	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap 1	655.00	...	+ 1.70	...
-do- Acc 1	1236.40	...	+ 4.30	...
Property Cap 1	138.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc 1	249.50	...	+ 0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap 1	207.60	.	- 0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	376.90	.	- 0.50	...
Equity Cap 1	412.70	...	- 2.90	...
-do- Acc 1	763.20	...	- 4.70	...
Internatl Cap 1	267.20	...	- 4.20	...
-do- Acc 1	488.40	...	- 7.30	...
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	159.60	..	- 0.10	...
-do- Acc 1	287.50	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap 1	412.30	..	- 3.40	...
-do- Acc 1	759.30	...	- 5.60	...
Moneymaker Fd 1	575.90	...	- 4.00	...
Capital Growth 1	2506.30	...	-17.60	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB				
01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	684.30	718.60	-38.60	.
Amer Rec Bond	830.90	872.10	-10.90	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	332.40	349.10	-15.20	..
Australasia Bd	332.40	349.20	- 5.60	.
Commodity Bond	425.60	447.00	+ 9.30	...
Deposit Bond Acc	400.70	420.80	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1920.80	2016.90	+10.10	...
European Bd Acc	568.80	597.40	-21.20	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	1026.90	1076.30	- 9.90	..
Gilt Bond Acc	534.30	561.60	+ 3.70	...
Gold Bond Acc	153.00	160.80	+ 1.60	...
High Yield Bond	428.10	449.60	- 4.10	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	235.90	247.80	+ 1.90	...
International Bd	955.30	1003.20	-35.90	...
Japan Bond Acc	210.30	220.90	- 4.60	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	202.70	212.90	- 7.00	...
Managed Bonds	1125.10	1181.50	+18.00	...
Prop Bond Acc	512.70	538.50	- 2.10	...
Rec Bond Acc	1020.20	1071.30	+ 4.10	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	353.40	371.10	-24.00	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	310.10	326.50	- 1.80	...
UK Equity Acc	480.70	506.00	- 2.50	...
Special Sits	127.90	134.70	+ 0.10	...
Special Sits Acc	198.30	208.80	+ 0.20	...
North American	267.50	281.60	- 5.70	...
N American Acc	414.70	436.60	- 8.60	...
Pacific Basin	363.40	382.60	-11.10	..
Pacific Basin Acc	563.40	593.10	-16.90	...
Fixed Interest	312.40	328.90	- 0.30	..
Fixed Interest Acc	485.00	510.60	...	...
Property	188.80	198.80	...	...
Property Acc	291.10	306.60	+ 0.30	..
Deposit	155.60	163.80	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Acc	241.50	254.30	+ 0.40	...
Managed	331.40	348.90	- 4.00	...
Managed Acc	473.50	498.50	- 5.20	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH				
0117 9266 366				
Property	453.10	476.90	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	513.60	540.80	- 6.40	...
Gilt Edged	721.20	759.10	- 0.70	...
Interest Fund	444.30	467.60	+ 0.70	...
Managed Fd	627.70	660.70	- 4.90	...
Intl Equity	775.70	816.50	- 9.80	...
North American	330.10	347.40	- 7.90	...
Far East	498.30	524.50	- 6.30	...
Intl Currency	262.10	275.70	+ 0.30	...
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH				
0171 623 4200				
Managed	644.10	678.00	- 7.30	...
UK Equity	918.40	966.70	- 8.50	...
Overseas Equity	592.50	623.60	-19.40	...
Americas	612.00	643.10	-23.40	...
Far East	598.70	630.20	-22.00	...
Property	242.30	255.00	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Interest	464.30	488.70	+ 0.30	...
Indexed Gilt	264.10	277.90	+ 1.50	.
Deposit	241.90	254.60	+ 0.20	...
NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD				
PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ				
0117 940 4040				
Growth Mgd Pens	185.60	195.00	- 3.50	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP				
01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1987.30	2091.70	-21.00	..
Equity Fund	4606.00	4849.80	-24.40	..
Property Fd	699.70	736.50	+ 0.60	..
Fixed Int Fd	726.40	764.60	+ 2.70	..
Deposit Fund	392.80	413.50	+ 0.40	..
Intl Fund	326.70	343.90	- 8.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA				
01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	417.30	440.20	- 4.70	...
Fxd Interest Acc	289.90	305.90	+ 0.10	...
International Acc	315.70	333.10	-11.30	...
Managed Acc	287.30	303.10	- 4.70	...
Property Acc	211.80	223.50	+ 0.30	...
Money Acc	171.70	181.20	+ 1.00	...
Spec Mkt Acc	234.60	247.50	- 4.40	...
Japan Equity Acc	106.50	112.40	- 2.20	...
N Amer Acc	255.20	269.20	-12.30	...
Pacific Acc	152.10	160.50	- 7.20	...
European Acc	288.20	304.10	- 6.80	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	145.90	153.60	+ 0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	350.60	369.10	+ 0.40	...
Inv Equity	1790.60	1884.90	-17.00	...
Inv Managed	1171.80	1233.50	-12.90	..
Ret Managed	1375.70	1448.20	-16.00	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH				
0171 405 9222				
Managed	482.70	502.90	+11.80	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP				
0171 548 3228				
Managed Fund	1068.30	1124.60	-10.00	...
Equity Fund	2290.20	2410.80	- 1.80	...
Intl Fund	817.50	860.60	-25.00	...
Fixed Interest	674.00	709.50	+ 0.80	...
Property Fund	520.70	548.20	+ 0.20	...
Cash Fund	405.10	426.50	+ 0.30	...
Pacific Basin	372.30	391.90	-18.00	...
N American Fd	454.30	478.80	-12.40	...
Euro Fund	418.60	440.70	-15.60	...
Balanced Fund	212.50	223.70	- 2.10	...
Strategic Fund	231.50	243.70	- 3.70	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) 1	981.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc	533.20	561.30	...	...
Op Prop	554.20	583.40	- 2.40	...
Op Equity	1436.40	1512.00	- 4.80	...
Op High Yield	710.10	747.50	- 1.80	...
Op Managed	1091.10	1148.50	- 9.00	...
Op Deposit	435.30	458.20	+ 0.40	...
Japan Smlr	176.40	185.70	- 6.80	...
Managed Gth	379.20	399.20	+ 6.20	...
British	516.20	543.40	+ 9.10	...
Global Bond	126.20	132.80	+ 2.60	...
Gold Share	85.30	89.80	- 0.60	...
Japan	376.10	395.90	+ 6.10	...
UK Smlr Cos	570.90	600.90	+20.10	...
Mngd Growth	625.00	657.90	-16.30	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS				
0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	522.30	549.70	- 5.00	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western *Road*, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	97.10	102.80	- 0.20	2.37
Deposit Fund (2)	422.40	447.00	+ 0.50	6.91
Gilt Fund	627.50	662.90	+ 0.30	8.10
Global Equity Fd	303.70	321.40	- 3.40	...
Property Fund (46)	125.10	132.40	...	7.04
AG Bond Fund	172.20	182.30	- 0.50	..
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow				
0141 248 2323				
Equity	840.40	884.70	- 7.60	...
Fixed Interest	437.60	460.70	- 1.60	.
Index-Linked	221.30	233.00	- 0.60	...
International	566.20	596.10	-15.10	...
Property	336.90	354.70	+ 0.20	...
Cash	242.10	254.90	-13.40	...
Managed	614.50	646.90	- 7.60	...
Cap Gteed Bd	173.20	182.40	- 2.10	...
95% Safeguard	112.10	...	- 0.40	...
100% Safeguard	102.90	...	+ 0.10	...
Wealth Pres Cap	129.20	..	+ 2.30	...
Wealth Pres Inc	121.70	...	+29.20	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF				
0131 556 9101				
Cash	201.80	212.50	+ 0.03	...
Index-Linked	189.30	199.20	- 0.90	...
Fixed Interest	218.30	229.80	+ 0.10	...
Mixed	348.10	366.50	- 8.20	...
UK Equity	342.40	360.40	- 5.10	...
International	338.70	356.60	-14.80	...
American	453.10	476.90	-19.40	...
Japan	208.40	219.40	- 4.80	...
European	393.50	414.40	-19.30	...
Pacific	389.90	410.40	-26.30	..
Technology	633.40	683.60	-27.20	...
Fixed Bd Crcy	244.80	257.70	- 4.30	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE				
0131 225 2211				
Property	247.40	260.50	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	529.40	557.40	- 9.90	...
American	388.80	409.30	-20.00	...
Pacific	383.90	404.20	-11.10	.
European	666.90	701.70	-35.80	...
Global Mgd	404.20	425.60	-14.70	...
Fixed Interest	286.20	301.30	+ 0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Index Linked	226.10	238.10	+ 0.80	...
Deposit	217.30	228.90	+ 0.20	...
Managed	390.00	410.60	- 8.20	...
Worldwide	152.40	160.60	- 4.20	...
Pen Worldwide	167.50	176.50	- 5.90	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN				
0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2372.60	2446.00	+72.80	...
Safety Fund	291.20	306.50	- 1.30	...
Growth Fund	318.40	335.20	- 5.70	...
Opportunity Fd	319.50	336.40	- 3.90	...
Cash Fund	193.00	203.20	+ 0.10	...
European Fund	523.70	551.30	-23.50	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	*249.10*	262.30	+ 0.80	...
Index-Linked Fd	206.70	217.60	+ 2.40	...
International Fd	371.00	390.60	-13.80	...
North American	395.20	416.00	-16.30	...
Property Fund	136.90	144.20	...	...
UK Equity	359.30	378.30	+ 4.10	...
UK Smaller	329.40	346.80	+ 3.20	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA				
0131 556 9181				
Mixed	370.50	390.10	- 1.40	...
Equity	408.90	430.60	+ 2.70	...
International	349.90	368.50	- 9.20	...
Property	257.40	271.10	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	288.10	303.40	- 0.30	...
Index Linked	207.60	218.70	+ 0.80	...
Cash	205.30	216.20	+ 0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	1099.20	1158.80	-14.40	...
Cash Fund	374.50	394.70	+ 0.10	...
Property Fund	333.10	351.10	...	...
Equity Fund	1179.30	1254.60	-25.90	...
Fxd Interest Fund	579.00	610.20	- 1.20	...
International	494.30	525.90	-14.60	...
High Income	1029.50	1095.30	- 7.30	...
Far East	603.60	642.20	-21.80	...
North American	896.40	953.70	-36.80	...
Special Sits	914.90	973.40	+19.10	...
Technology	1205.20	1282.20	-30.40	...
Extra Income Fd	555.10	590.60	- 1.60	...
Gilt Fund	548.30	583.30	+ 0.30	...
European	218.90	232.90	- 8.00	...
Adventurous Mg	279.40	294.50	- 4.90	...
Secure Mgd	190.80	201.10	- 1.10	...
Equity Inc Dist	150.40	158.50	+ 0.10	4.04
Managed Dist	130.40	137.50	- 0.30	4.67
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	444.50	472.90	+ 2.10	...
North America	534.50	568.70	-16.30	...
Far East Fund	642.70	681.70	- 5.60	...
Global Managed	605.40	644.10	- 1.30	...
Deposit Fund	252.40	265.70	- 0.10	...
Prime Residential	145.20	152.90	+ 0.20	...
European Fund	390.30	415.30	- 6.20	...
Fixed Interest	62.70	66.70	- 0.50	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU				
0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1308.80	1378.80	-13.20	...
Inv Pol 2	1262.70	1329.30	-12.50	...
Inv Pol 3	1190.60	1253.40	-11.80	...
Inv Cash	352.90	371.20	+ 0.40	...
Mixed Fund	608.70	640.90	-12.00	...
Equity Fund	767.50	808.00	-10.70	...
Property Fund	283.60	298.60	+ 0.30	...
International Fd	633.40	666.80	-26.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	460.60	484.90	+ 4.20	...
Indexed Stock Fd	230.30	242.50	+ 1.00	...
Cash Fund	255.10	268.60	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton [illegible]				
01703 334411				
Managed Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Equity Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
International	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Property	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
Standard Life House, [illegible] Edinburgh [illegible]				
Cash	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Equity	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
European	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Far East	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Fixed Interest	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Index Linked	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
International	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Managed	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Nth American	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Property	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Pensions				
Cash	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Equity	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
European	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Far East	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Fixed Interest	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Index Linked	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
International	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Managed	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Nth American	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Property	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Stock Exchange [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, [illegible]				
01403 23232[illegible]				
Managed Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Equity Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Fixed Interest	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Index-Linked	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Property Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
International	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
N American	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Far East Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Deposit Fund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible] Bd	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Worldwide [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	272.10	286.50	- 8.90	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	986.80	1038.90	+ 9.30	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	576.50	615.50	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	685.10	...	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc 1	632.90	...	+ 0.70	...
Agricultural Fd 1	928.00	...	+ 0.90	...
-do- Acc 1	883.80	...	+ 0.80	...
Abbey Nat Fd 1	501.20	...	+ 0.60	...
Abbey Nat Acc 1	524.30	...	+ 0.50	...
Investment Fd 1	520.20	...	- 7.80	...
Investment (A) 1	497.00	...	- 7.50	...
Equity 1	1939.40	...	-25.70	...
Equity Acc 1	1844.60	...	-24.50	...
Money Fund 1	539.70	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc 1	512.60	...	+ 0.50	...
Actuarial Fd 1	850.20	...	-12.60	...
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	462.70	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	462.70	...	+ 0.50	...
Retire Annuity 1	1433.00	...	...	...
Immed Annuity 1	307.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life 1	253.60	...	+ 0.30	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basing View, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ				
Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc 1	2105.70	...	+ 3.50	...
Managed Acc 1	1182.50	...	+25.80	...
Equity Account 1	1811.40	...	+53.10	...
Mngd Fund Acc	536.60	564.90	+12.30	...
Equity Fund Acc	779.80	820.90	+24.00	...
Prop Fund Acc	295.40	310.90	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	382.60	402.70	+ 1.30	...
Money Fund Acc	245.30	258.20	+ 0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Secs Ac	233.20	245.50	- 0.50	...
Pers Pens Acc 1	2703.90	...	+60.00	...
Pens Mngd Acc	1256.50	1322.60	+29.30	...
Pens Guarantee	312.40	328.90	+ 0.60	...
Pens Equity	513.10	540.10	+17.40	...
Pens Property	347.20	365.50	- 0.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	*374.30*	*394.00*	- 1.30	...
Pens Intl	338.50	356.30	+ 5.80	...
Pens Money	271.90	286.30	+ 0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	228.20	240.20	- 1.20	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL				
0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1218.10	1282.30	-15.70	...
Property Acc	451.70	475.50	- 3.10	...
Equity Acc	2133.90	2246.30	-21.50	...
Fixed Int Acc	494.10	520.20	+ 1.60	...
Cash Acc	347.20	365.50	+ 0.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	628.70	661.80	-10.50	...
Japan Acc	276.50	291.10	+ 1.10	...
Pacific Acc	428.20	450.80	-15.40	...
Far Eastern Acc	904.40	952.10	-19.10	...
International Acc	763.00	803.20	-16.90	...
Distribution Fund	330.40	347.80	- 3.30	5.39
European	266.30	280.40	-11.30	...
Deflrd Dist	218.80	230.40	- 1.60	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE				
01264 345678				
Managed Fund	382.80	403.00	- 6.00	...
Property Fund	238.80	251.50	...	...
Fixed Interest Fd	265.00	279.00	+ 0.20	...
Money Fund	223.20	235.10	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	330.30	348.30	- 9.80	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire [illegible]				

مكتبة الاهرام

هكذا من الأصل

JOHN POTTER

Planning ahead: Maxine Godfrey and her son, Tim King, attempt to negotiate a way through the pensions minefield

Patience will pay off

PENSIONS PENSIONS PENSIONS POSTBAG

Waiting game is the best policy for those beginning their careers, says Sara McConnell

Should young people be worried about pension planning? A few years ago, most people under 30 would have howled with laughter at the idea that they should start saving for their distant retirement. But for millions of school-leavers and graduates starting work this summer, the reality is that they can expect little help from the State in retirement. Those now entering employment will almost certainly have to make compulsory contributions to a personal plan to top up their basic state pension unless they work for a company with its own pension scheme.

Maxine Godfrey from Warwick writes: "I am writing to ask if you would advise my son and me on any action he should be taking about a pension. He left school after his GCSEs in July 1996 and has been working for the past year in a computer company as a junior programmer. The company does not have a pension scheme and I feel he should be starting to make contributions into a fund. But from what I read in *The Times* I am unsure as to whether now is the right time to go to an independent financial adviser or whether he should wait until the Government comes up with new pension proposals."

Pensions Postbag replies: "Your son is now 17. Under Inland Revenue rules he can start a personal pension when he is 16, so there is nothing legally stopping him from buying a pension tomorrow. But there are a number of issues to consider, which a good financial adviser should tackle before getting him to sign on the dotted line.

A pension is a long-term commitment and once you put away the money you cannot get at it again until you retire. Under current personal pension rules you can take your fund any time between 50 and 75, but that is a long time away if you are only 17.

Most people in their twenties and thirties want to build up savings to put down a deposit on a home or buy a car, or possibly pay for school fees. These are arguably more pressing priorities than a pension at his age.

Ian Ferguson, pensions manager at Hill Martin, the independent financial adviser, says that your son must recognise that he is tying up money by putting it into a pension.

The other big problem with pensions is that they are expensive. Upfront charges and ongoing charges eat into contributions and weigh particularly heavily on lower salaries. Your son is not likely to be earning a large salary when he is young and inexperienced. Some plans take the whole of the first year's contribution in charges. Monthly policy charges levied as a flat fee also have a disproportionate impact on smaller contributions and should be avoided, says Mr Ferguson.

One way of avoiding these drawbacks is to save elsewhere. He cannot open a Pep or Tessa until he is 18 but he can build up money in the bank, building society or in National Savings. After all, pensions are just another form of saving, albeit with generous tax breaks.

When he does start a pension, he will not have to lose out on the tax breaks. Under current Revenue rules he can use up his unused tax relief going back six years. Even if he does not earn enough to pay basic-rate tax, he will get tax relief at the 23 per cent basic rate of tax on his contributions.

According to Mark Bolland of the independent advisers Chamberlain de Broe, people should wait until they have established some permanence in their lives before starting a pension. Mr Bolland points out that although the pensions industry is very keen on saying "the earlier the better", you have to make priorities.

School-leavers or graduates who start work with employers who provide a company pension should almost certainly join it to benefit from the employer's contribution. But if they expect to change jobs soon they could find that an employer's scheme is not the answer. Many traditional schemes discriminate against early leavers and benefit those who stay longer.

A good financial adviser will be able to advise you on all of these issues and should offer you an initial free consultation.

But as you rightly say, the whole pensions scene is changing. The first Budget of the new Labour Government scrapped the tax relief enjoyed by pension funds on company dividends. The Government also recently announced that it intends to review the entire pensions system, including State provisions.

One result of the review should be the introduction of cheaper, simpler personal pensions. Waiting a couple of years and using the time to build up savings elsewhere as a cushion could be a good move, as he may be able to access a better pension as a result.

At 17, your son can afford to wait, especially as it can be expensive to extricate yourself from personal pensions in their current form.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Halifax makes a little extra from shareholders

From Mr L. A. Roth

Sir, As a qualifying borrowing member of Halifax plc I was interested to read in an earlier edition of your letters page that converted building societies are charging shareholders for the reissue of share certificates where these have "gone astray".

In my own case, I have been advised by the Halifax helpline (now a chargeable service) that the certificates were posted in June. I also asked if what I had read in *The Times* with regard to charging for replacements was fact, and I was told by a "helpliner" that if they had gone missing I would not be charged for replacements and that I would need to fill in a form. The form did not arrive either, so I called to find out when that was sent.

Seven helpliners later I advised the eighth that it may be a good idea if they tried recorded delivery. As if by magic the form arrived the next day. It does not, however, allow me to obtain my rightful shares; it is in fact a form for me to sign indemnifying Halifax plc from any consequences arising from reissuing the certificates. Into the bargain I will have to pay £317.50 in administration charges.

Am I alone in thinking that there is no proof that the original certificates were ever sent and that if I sign the indemnity there is no guarantee that I will receive the new certificates? As for the "administration" charge, I would suggest that this is just a cynical way of raising additional funds to assist in the costs of conversion.

Yours faithfully,
LEE ROTH,
The Bungalow,
Withersfield Road,
Great Wratting,
Haverhill, Suffolk.

Businesses with crossed lines

From Mr D. Williams

Sir, I wonder how many companies realise that they are cutting themselves off from buyers and investors abroad?

So many of those who seek to sell their wares or rake in our funds for investment quote only 0800 and 0345 numbers, neither of which is available from even the closest parts of Europe.

What is worse is that they do not quote addresses, so that we cannot use International Directory Inquiries to find their conventional numbers. Do they really want custom only from UK residents? Or has no one at BT warned them of the restrictions imposed by 0800 and 0345?

Yours faithfully,
DEREK WILLIAMS,
125 Sur Son Michel,
Gotmar,
Port de Pollenca,
Majorca.

Right, Angus, next Market day, you nip up to the bank ... then Homer, here, whisks it round to Tesco's
50
GED

Shopping in limbo

From Mrs S. L. W. Ward

Sir, On the first of every month a considerable sum of money is transferred from my Midland Bank account to my Tesco Clubcard Plus account. This month, by August 2 the money had not reached my Clubcard Plus account. I was told that it would take up to five working days for the direct debit to take place. In these days of computer technology, I find this astonishing. Where is the money in the intervening period and who accrues the interest?

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN WARD,
Newsole Cottage,
Singledge Lane,
Coldred, Dover.

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£25,000–£49,999	[illegible]
£50,000–£99,999	[illegible]
£100,000+	[illegible]

MORTGAGE RATE

Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate

VARIABLE RATE	[illegible]
APR	[illegible]

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[illegible] best rate 7.5% with access is worth another look

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
For AIB see Govett (John)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS 01203 553 231				
General Acc	813.00	864.90	-10.90	2.19
General Inc	673.60	716.60	-9.00	2.19
UK Growth Acc	561.40	597.30	-8.20	2.13
UK Growth Inc	358.90	381.90	-5.30	2.13
Higher Inc Acc #	988.50	1051.60	+0.20	4.49
Higher Inc Inc #	516.50	551.70	+0.10	4.49
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	222.20	234.70	+0.20	5.40
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.88	100.20	+0.10	5.40
Nth America	429.80	457.30	-20.80	
Europe	439.10	467.20	-20.70	
Brit Excell	111.90	119.10	-1.70	2.27
Brit Fndmtls Acc	135.70	144.40	+0.20	4.24
Brit Fndmtls Inc	89.53	95.25	-0.18	4.24
Global Opps	119.00	126.60	-3.60	
Balanced Acc	73.09	77.78	-1.15	2.01
Balanced Inc	67.54	71.86	-1.07	2.01
Japan Acc	44.96	47.85	-1.01	
Pac Basin Acc	415.10	441.70	-22.00	0.97
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS 0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	136.40	144.80	+0.30	6.34
High Inc Equity	213.20	228.00†	-0.20	4.25
Worldwide Bond	269.50	285.80†	+0.30	3.99
American Growth	520.70	556.00	-16.80	0.30
Asian Pacific	355.60	380.20	-14.50	0.36
Assets & Earnings	332.70	355.80	-0.10	2.63
Euro Capital Acc	237.70	254.30	-7.60	0.78
Extra Inc	43.67	46.46†	-0.17	6.46
General	304.60	324.00†	+0.50	2.84
Global Opps	84.97	90.39	-1.15	0.44
Japan	104.30	111.60	-0.20	
Managed Inc	51.75	55.03†	0.05	4.09
Mastertrust	194.20	207.70	-2.00	1.07
US Emerging Cos	213.30	228.10	-10.80	
Ethical	87.19	92.76	+2.17	1.97
International	158.30	168.40	-3.20	0.52
Dividend & Growth	78.62	83.64†		4.02
Global Gwth & Sec	77.45	82.75	+0.06	2.44
Latin America	102.20	109.70	-1.50	0.26
Capital Reserve	150.00	150.00	-0.10	4.66
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0141 275 3600				
N&P UK Growth	108.60	115.50†	-1.30	2.05
Equity Income #	153.20	162.90	-0.70	4.06
Extra Income #	291.50	310.10		5.67
Smaller Cos	104.80	111.40	+1.60	1.73
International	132.90	141.30	-4.90	1.32
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0800 833 580				
American	78.15	81.24	-3.76	
Emerging Mkts	84.08	87.56†	-2.39	0.04
European	174.33	181.28	-2.75	
Extra Income #	55.60	58.50	-0.03	4.93
Far East Emg Eco	127.71	133.96†	-4.80	0.45
Fixed Interest #	26.49	27.54†	-0.06	8.53
Fixed Inv Tst #	166.69	175.00†	-1.74	9.34
Japan	194.96	202.56†	+0.81	
Latin American	85.55	89.58†	-3.60	
Pacific	84.23	88.41	-2.75	0.12
Property	83.73	87.88†	-0.34	1.47
UK Emerging Cos	67.81	73.29†	+0.63	0.98
UK Growth	66.85	69.62	-0.36	1.15
Aber World Port #	93.54	98.44	-0.76	2.34
Ethical	84.45	87.82	-0.11	1.03
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.65	50.65		7.01
For Abtrust see Aberdeen				
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2365.00	2499.00	+62.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0171 256 5868				
Resdl Property #	106.20	112.90	+0.30	5.03
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD 01452 305 958				
Amity Income	104.58	110.96	+0.83	1.88
Income Builder Inc	92.48	98.38	+0.30	3.57
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC IFA dlg: 01793 610 366 Client dlg: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	337.80	361.10	-7.70	2.79
Capital	582.70	622.80	-8.80	1.01
Balanced	979.30	1046.00	-22.00	2.33
Accumulator	1921.00	2053.00	-41.00	1.52
Income Trusts				
American Income	80.28	85.430†	-3.12	1.90
High Income	554.50	592.70	-10.00	3.60
Equity Income	309.70	330.80†	-5.30	3.36
High Yield	334.30	357.30	-5.70	3.54
Govt Securities	36.16	38.180	+0.06	5.44
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	277.60	296.50	-15.60	0.04
European Growth	69.65	74.350	-3.01	0.05
International	220.50	235.70	-10.40	0.09
Japan	190.70	203.30	-7.00	
Pacific	431.80	461.50	-23.20	
Secs of America	735.50	782.10	-40.20	0.10
Wrlde Asset Val	61.69	65.940	-3.08	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	768.00	820.90	-15.50	1.68
Conv & Gilt	55.56	59.380†	-0.23	3.57
Smaller Cos	206.40	220.60	+7.40	1.04
2nd Smaller Cos	195.00	208.40	+6.80	0.75
Recovery	188.80	201.80	-2.90	1.19
Met Min & Cdty	154.10	164.20	-6.40	0.19
Oseas Earnings	502.50	537.10	-9.70	0.90
Technology	279.00	298.20	12.30	
UK Special Sits	678.30	725.10	-1.70	1.48
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD 01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	136.80	142.10		
Foundtn Persl Pens	81.93	85.12		
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD 0131 222 4242				
America	442.30	470.50	-8.20	
Bond	123.70	130.10†		6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	111.40	118.50	+2.50	1.89
Conv & Gen #	66.46	70.70†	+0.48	5.47
Europe	357.70	380.30	-17.00	0.10
Euro Smlr Cos	132.80	141.60	-2.70	0.31
Income Gwth	396.00	421.30	+5.90	4.20
Japan	349.00	369.60	-4.40	
Latin American	125.80	133.80	-2.40	0.49
Pacific	129.30	137.60	-8.30	0.53
UK Smlr Cos	61.08	64.98	+1.43	1.78
Japan Fd	627.80	645.30	-16.80	
Lloyd Fd	240.70	255.70	-4.10	2.45
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD 0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	452.20	478.30	-6.40	0.74
Capital Gwth	158.50	167.60	+0.60	2.49
Wwide Opps	259.60	274.60	-3.80	0.80
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD 0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	511.00	543.60	-3.40	1.61
European Ed Inc	97.40	101.00†	+0.20	5.79
Exempt	101.00	107.40	-0.80	2.18
500	507.70	543.90	-10.00	1.93
General	390.10	415.00	-2.60	1.68
Property	259.30	279.90	+0.10	5.49

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	163.94	176.29	-6.78	0.87
UK Equity	112.36	120.02	-0.82	2.77
UK Equity & Bd	64.31	68.18	-0.15	5.21
UK Smlr Cos	52.29	55.93	+1.15	1.72
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	919.38	933.28	+23.43	3.71
Inv Fd Acc	931.18	946.26	+23.74	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	160.94	161.58		8.85
Fxd Int Sec Acc	164.61	165.27		
COIF CHARITY FUNDS 0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	910.96	924.72	+17.69	3.76
Investment Acc	4338.60	4404.18	+19.02	
Fixed Int Inc	130.22	130.74	+0.06	8.87
Fixed Int Acc	253.17	254.19	+0.13	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD 0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	90.86	95.65	-0.84	5.24
Beck Bio-Tech	38.90	42.15	-1.39	
Acorn Ethical Tst	211.48	222.07	+2.10	0.42
City Fin Assets	87.93	92.33	+2.56	1.80
City Fin Intl	100.46	105.49	-0.24	0.06
Friars Hse Cap	345.00	367.00†	+11.66	1.82
Buckley Wrld Gth	162.14	171.87	+3.47	
Shaw Utilities	74.41	75.99	+0.07	4.56
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	69.07	73.28	-0.79	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD 0345 772 233				
American Gwth	98.41	104.69	-4.22	
Dragon Growth	74.50	79.67	-6.21	0.38
Equity High Inc	108.75	115.07	+0.08	3.35
-do- Accum	161.09	170.46	+0.13	3.35
Extra Income Inc	27.78	29.24	-0.11	6.67
Extra Income Acc	31.87	33.54	-0.14	6.67
European Gwth	80.42	85.10	-3.85	0.11
Evergreen	35.34	37.79	-0.57	
General Equity	126.13	133.12	-1.20	2.43
Japan Growth	45.24	48.13	-1.04	
Pedigree Gwth	74.90	79.25	+0.10	1.90
Ped Sm Cos Inc	39.98	42.31	+1.06	1.36
-do- Accum	42.82	45.31	+1.13	1.36
Retirement Inc #	32.15	34.20	+0.01	5.40
Special Sits	52.91	56.83	+0.47	2.79
UK & Overseas	71.68	75.85	-2.38	0.45
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD 01634 888 000				
Balanced	79.25	82.55†	-0.50	3.74
Capital	97.72	101.79†	-0.87	2.16
High Income	54.15	56.40†	-0.05	6.56
Top 50	69.39	72.28†	-1.21	2.23
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD 0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	215.00	223.98	+1.07	4.31
Long Gilt	47.18	49.12†	+0.16	5.70
Monthly Inc Plus	54.23	56.50	+0.08	7.93
Preference Share	53.07	55.29†	-1.96	7.05
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	158.55	165.17†	+3.99	5.42
Managed Fund	87.13	90.77	-1.61	2.49
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.62	53.78	+1.19	1.58
-do- Accum	61.74	64.32	+1.43	1.58
UK & General	118.06	122.99	-1.42	2.28
-do- Accum	156.51	163.05	-1.87	2.28
UK Growth	233.74	243.50	-2.48	1.61
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	258.70	269.57	-13.52	0.50
Far Eastern Gth	140.79	146.67	-6.58	0.19
Global Bond	74.51	77.62	-0.86	8.62
Japan Growth	112.85	117.56	-1.80	
North Amer Gth	305.20	317.95	-12.56	
Oriental Growth	89.62	93.36	-5.40	0.52
Worldwide Growth	84.69	88.23	-3.14	0.29
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.04	93.04	+0.09	6.62
Homemakers Fund	104.54	111.22	-1.91	1.94
Quilter Fund	177.31	188.63†	-2.68	1.67
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD 0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	39.44	42.17†	+0.54	2.99
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD 0800 526 358				
Growth	196.10	208.60	+0.50	1.85
Income	81.81	87.03†	-0.07	4.12
European	91.59	97.44	-4.12	0.10
Recovery	185.30	197.10	+3.20	2.18
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD 0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1183.80	1203.40	+25.30	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD 01277 690 370				
European Inc	83.95	89.23†	-4.89	0.35
Fellowship Tst	115.00	122.30	+1.80	1.11
Income #	323.70	344.30	-1.80	3.99
-do- Accum #	880.40	936.50	-4.90	3.99
Smaller Cos	226.60	241.00	+9.00	0.76
-do- Accum	283.10	301.10	+11.20	0.76
Gilt Portfolio	112.40	119.50†	-0.30	1.19
High Inc Port #	95.04	101.10	-0.80	4.13
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD 0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1915.50	1938.00	+3.40	0.53
UK Small Cos	2209.30	2296.50	+50.80	2.99
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS 0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	238.80	246.10	+3.20	
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD 01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	206.60	219.70	-1.60	1.47
UK High Inc Inc	217.90	231.80	-1.50	3.07
-do- Accum	303.70	323.00	-2.20	3.07
UK Pref & F I Inc	62.22	66.05	-0.08	5.60
Envmnmt Opps	122.50	130.30	-0.50	0.77
UK Smlr Cos	71.57	76.13†	+1.99	0.89
Extra Income Inc	52.10	55.41†	-0.03	6.66
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD 0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	24.34	25.86	+0.13	5.41
Endeavour	120.10	127.30	+1.30	1.96
Equity Income #	164.30	174.80	-1.80	3.67
European	74.72	79.05†	2.97	
Financial	70.68	75.10	-1.56	1.33
Growth & Inc #	333.20	354.00†	-1.90	2.47
High Dist #	208.50	221.50	-1.10	3.84
International	471.60	501.10†	-18.80	0.20
Intl Gth Inc	125.70	134.20†	-3.20	2.01
Latin American	43.65	46.38†	-1.78	
Mgd Gwth Port	98.23	102.70	+2.30	4.87
Pacific	91.36	96.36	-4.44	
Pref High Inc	34.08	35.59†	+0.15	7.03
Tokyo	206.40	217.20	-3.70	
UK Smaller Cos	239.90	254.90	+1.40	1.18

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
New Japan	77.89	82.25	-0.14	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD 0171 581 3020				
World Health	203.30	216.20†	-9.70	
Income #	252.71	268.84†	+5.04	3.86
UK Growth	95.25	101.32†	+1.22	1.83
Intl Growth	102.24	108.76†	-1.95	0.51
Ecology	110.43	117.47	-1.06	0.74
European	243.48	259.02†	-7.04	0.19
Far Eastern	350.18	372.53†	-16.04	
UK Special Sits	60.90	64.96	+0.36	0.39
Fd of Inv Tsts	62.18	66.32	-0.46	0.51
High Income #	57.83	61.47		4.56
Financial Opps	50.10	53.44	-0.41	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	217.30	230.00	+0.50	4.74
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	127.21	135.32	-6.16	0.28
Intl Bond	62.65	66.02	+0.73	3.85
Intl Equity Growth	100.91	107.21	-3.68	0.37
N Amer Growth	173.09	183.71	-4.28	0.47
Special Sits Growth	33.30	35.42	+0.06	2.11
UK Growth	551.57	587.20	-3.35	2.47
-do- Accum	769.94	819.08	-4.68	2.47
NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD 01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1586.40	1618.20	-19.50	2.60
Income #	1154.90	1173.10†	-8.90	4.40

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS Dealers: 0171 956 7254				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	105.40	108.90	-0.20	6.60
Euro Pfrn Inc	122.40	130.20†	-2.80	2.75
-do- Accum	122.60	130.40†	-2.90	2.75
Gilt Yield	124.10	130.98	+1.10	6.18
Global Income	264.60	280.90†	-5.80	2.85
High Yield	191.40	203.60†	-3.30	4.59
-do- Accum	651.50	693.10†	-11.20	4.59
Money Market	100.35	100.85†	+0.08	6.35
Smlr Cos Div	64.33	68.44†	+1.07	3.78
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	1115.20	1131.00	-14.00	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD 0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	188.90	193.00†	+4.90	3.54
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD 0800 363432				
High Inc #	100.10	103.20†	-0.60	6.73
M & S Inv Pfolio	204.50	210.90†	-2.70	2.01
-do- Accum	247.60	255.50†	-3.30	2.01
UK Sel Pfolio	186.80	192.60	-1.50	2.07
-do- Accum	229.50	237.60	-1.80	2.07
UK 100 Cos	146.60	146.60	-2.60	2.37
-do- Accum	150.30	150.30	-2.70	2.37
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				

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Equities take a tumble

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	407½	Allied Domecq	477½	-5	6.2	14.3
626	410	Bulmer (HP)†	421	+1	4.3	11.7
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	43½	..	9.8	10.8
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	962½	..	1.7	23.8
631	425½	Grand Met†	586	-3	3.2	18.8
627	424	Guinness	591½	-3½	3.5	16.8
380	307½	Highland Dist	325½	+3	3.2	15.2
336	233	Matthew Clark†	237	-1½	12.7	7.6
109½	52½	Merydian Wt	60	+½	6.5	14.8
2009¼	1462½	SA Breweries	1916¼	-37½	2.0	...

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521¼	918¾	ABN-AMRO	1359¾	-18¾	2.3	19.4
971	710	Abbey Nat†	790	-12½	4.3	13.1
655	532½	Alliance & Leic	620½	+8	3.3	14.4
563	389½	Allied Irish	537½	-15	3.4	15.3
489¼	363½	Aus New Z	473¼	+4½	4.0	..
4671¼	2875	Bank America	4221¼	-128¾		
452	291½	Bank Scotland	411½	-11	2.5	12.5
1462	978½	Barclays	1398½	-22½	3.0	13.1
764	517½	Bk of Ireland	730	-21½	2.7	16.1
8828¾	6008¼	Citicorp	8348½	-288¾		
1759¾	1268¾	Commerzbk	1669½		2.8	..
662½	559½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	778½	...	0.6	...
4321¼	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3831¼	...	1.6	..
1300	758½	Espirito Santo	1271½	-18¾	2.9	.
947½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	838½	+12½	0.5	
2369½	1272½	HSBC	2167½	-186½	2.7	17.4
2258½	1241	HSBC HK	2076	-164	2.8	16.7
783	701½	Halifax	729	-8	2.8	21.6
610	483½	Irish Perm	610	+6	2.6	..
783½	424	Lloyds TSB†	725	-19½	2.5	21.1
912¼	689½	Nat Aust Bk	887½	+3¼	4.8	12.0
896½	663½	Nat West†	797½	-19½	4.7	12.6
665	508	Rpl Bk Scot	602	+1	4.0	13.0
1093½	681	Stand Chart	1017½	-36	1.9	17.7
£164¾	£164¾	Wells Fargo	£164¾		2.0	..
397¾	315½	Westpac	386½	+1½	3.9	
373½	284	Woolwich	295½	-½	3.4	17.3

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
878½	717½	Bass	827½	-6	3.9	15.5
68¾	43½	Bdl for the Bdr	48		4.7	
205	142½	Burtonwood Brwt	153½		4.9	14.3
155½	121½	City Centre Rest	137	+4	2.3	21.2
744½	596	Compass Grp†	837½	-2½	1.8	23.4
305	250	Eldridge P 'A'	288	-½	2.4	15.9
485	427½	Fullr Sm 'A'	427½		2.9	14.9
586	422½	Greenalls Grp	487½	+10½	4.1	12.1
770	642	Greene King†	697½		2.9	19.1
237½	156½	Grosvenor Inns	156½	-13½	5.2	...
285	218½	Groupe Chez Ger	266	+3½	1.4	26.0
298½	261	Hardy Hanson†	271½		5.1	12.1

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
494	387½	Electrocomponts†	493½	+8	2.0	27.8
228½	117½	Eurodis Elec	130½	+5½	5.0	..
97½	76½	European Mtr	96	.	7.6	8.2
270	213	Evans Halshaw	270		7.6	
53½	39½	Fife Indmar	41½	+1	8.9	8.3
397½	312½	Finelist Grp	318½	+3½	2.6	16.2
34½	25½	Gardiner	25½		4.7	9.3
79½	57½	Glencheston	88½	+4	2.5	13.4
110	82½	Gowrings	106		3.5	24.1
15½	11	HR Owen	13½	..	6.0	12.4
183	20½	Hamish	22½	..		2.1
267½	232½	Harris (Philip)†	240½		5.2	9.3
330	284½	Headlam	318½	+1	2.3	20.9
165	145	Holders Tech†	165		4.9	13.5
240½	157½	ISA Intl	158½	-1½	2.4	12.3
309½	240½	Inchcape	290½	+2½	4.5	17.8
72	49½	Jacks (Wm)	64½		4.4	10.0
311	214½	Kwik-Fit	310½	-½	2.3	22.3
450½	318½	Lex Service†	450	+18	4.6	13.5
122	100	Lookers†	108½	-½	9.7	7.4
8	5½	Middlesex†	7½	...	1.7	12.7
41½	10½	Midlands	16		3.8	3.3
472	180	Mortimer	247	-2	4.3	8.4
165½	114½	Northamber	115½	-7½	1.5	7.0
352½	305½	Parico	332½	+5	3.0	17.4
404½	260½	Pendragon†	275½	+12	4.8	11.6
223½	172½	Perry Gp	172½		6.5	8.2
751	449	Premier Farnell	551½		2.7	20.4
152½	122½	Quadis Group	122½	-10	7.1	8.3
352	307½	REAT	350		1.4	43.1
2½	1½	Reece	1½	-¼		58.2
28	12½	Rossco	18½	-½	1.7	
4	1½	Ross Gp	2½			
109½	78½	Rykand	88½		5.8	15.5
38	24	SEP Ind	30½		6.4	13.9
92½	30	Saltire	37½	...	4.8	
415½	283½	Time Products	284		5.3	10.9
337	228	UMECO†	311		2.2	20.2
86½	58	United Carriers Gp	80½	-½	..	17.6
352½	267½	Vardy (Reg)	278½	+8	3.4	13.0
685	488½	WF Elect	621	-1½	3.1	
41	25½	Wilshaw	28½		3.8	
172½	111½	Wyko	148½	-½	2.6	...
158½	110½	Young (H)	155		3.5	13.2

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492½	327½	Antofagasta	405	..	1.6	21.4
328	232	Ascot Hldgs	275	+3½	2.4	45.9
917	787	Boston Hill	808½	+2½	2.9	19.1
280	180½	BTR	216	+1	5.6	9.3
601½	462	BAT†	517	-5½	6.3	11.1
60½	52	Bradley Inv	55½	+¼	8.5	9.1
266	182	Cookson	262½	+2	4.3	16.2
229½	197½	Cosalt	199	...	6.5	8.8
387½	256½	DCC	387½		2.2	14.5
312½	249½	Gallaher	286	-9½	8.4	10.9
141	125½	Grampian Hldgt	133½	..	5.7	11.6

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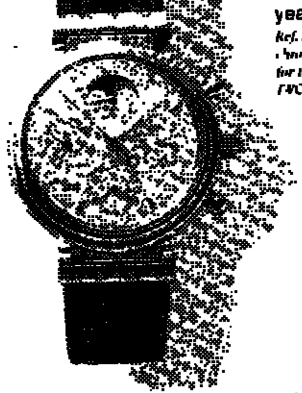

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BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	100		8.75	6.72
106	101	Exch 15% 1997	101	-	14.79	6.82
103	101	Exch 9¾% 1998	101	-	9.64	6.93
101	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	-	7.24	7.02
110	105	Treas 14% 1998-01	105	-	13.33	7.03
114	108	Treas 15½% 1998	108	-	14.24	7.05
108	105	Exch 12% 1998	105	-	11.35	7.08
105	103	Treas 9½% 1999	103	-	9.21	7.10
111	107	Exch 12¼% 1999	107	-	11.38	7.10
108	105	Treas 10½% 1999	105	-	9.95	7.09
99	96	Treas 6% 1999	98		6.11	6.98
108	106	Conv 10¼% 1999	106	-	9.63	7.09
106	104	Conv 9% 2000	104	-	8.63	7.09
104	102	Treas 8% 2000	102	-	7.79	7.06
104	102	Treas 8½% 2000	103	-	8.25	7.12
119	115	Treas 13% 2000	115	-	11.29	7.13
112	98	Treas 10% 2001	106	-	9.19	7.11
101	98	Treas 7% 2001	99	-	7.02	7.06
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
101	97	Treas 7% 2002	99	-	7.01	7.02
122	109	Treas 9¾% 2002	110	-	8.79	7.13
105	102	Treas 8% 2003	104	-	7.67	7.07
116	111	Treas 10% 2003	113	-	8.78	7.11
116	113	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113	-	10.13	7.15
87	82	Fund 3½% 1999-04	86		4.05	5.92
114	109	Conv 9½% 2004	113	-	8.38	7.09
99	94	Treas 6¾% 2004	99	-	6.87	7.04
109	104	Treas 8½% 2005	108	-	7.82	7.08
122	110	Conv 9½% 2005	113	-	8.34	7.11
129	124	Treas 12½% 2003-05	126	-	9.88	7.15
103	98	Treas 7½% 2006	102	-	7.30	7.08
107	99	Treas 7¾% 2006	104		7.44	7.11
104	100	Treas 8% 2002-06	103		7.75	7.23
133	115	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120	-	9.76	7.15
111	105	Treas 8½% 2007	109	-	7.75	7.12
102	96	Treas 7¼% 2007	101	-	7.15	7.05
116	109	Treas 9% 2008	114	-	7.85	7.07
108	101	Treas 8% 2009	107	-	7.45	7.08
LONGS (over 15 years)						
96	86	Treas 6¼% 2010	92	-	6.74	7.09
118	109	Conv 9% 2011	116	-	7.72	7.10
119	109	Treas 9% 2012	117	-	7.67	7.10
87	80	Treas 5½% 2008-12	87	-	6.28	6.85
110	100	Treas 8% 2013	108	-	7.36	7.08
107	99	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	105	-	7.33	7.11
111	101	Treas 8% 2015	110	-	7.27	7.01
120	103	Treas 8¾% 2017	118	-	7.42	7.05
115	101	Tr 8% 2021	111	-	7.16	6.98
UNDATED						
50	43	War Ln 3½%	49	-	7.06	
35	30	Treas 2½%	34	-	7.22	
55	49	Consols 4%	54	-	7.36	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
114	113	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	114			1.90
187	184	Treas IL 2½% 2001	187		2.84	3.57
184	180	Treas IL 2½% 2003	183	+	3.05	3.56
130	117	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	118	..	3.11	3.58
195	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	194	-	3.20	3.54
176	170	Treas IL 2½% 2009	175	+	3.23	3.51
183	176	Treas IL 2½% 2011	182	+	3.28	3.52
150	144	Treas IL 2½% 2013	150	+	3.30	3.51
161	153	Treas IL 2½% 2016	161	+	3.32	3.51
156	147	Treas IL 2½% 2020	156	-	3.37	3.54
129	122	Treas IL 2½% 2024	128		3.39	3.54
126	119	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	136	-	3.38	3.53

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
119	84	Abacus Recruit	109		0.6	21.2
215	170	Cole Inns▼	187		2.0	17.6
230	153	Country Gdns	182		1.1	16.9
262	180	Dawson Hldgs	217		2.8	21.0
51	33	Freepages	37			
99	75	Megalomedia	65	-4	0.3	
65	27	Mercury Corp	37			
590	290	Prism Rail	310	-3		
1265	945	Ramco Eny	1157		0.1	
793	619	Southern News	747		3.1	24.2
72	65	Southern Vectis	67		5.9	
510	410	Surrey Fr Inns	493		0.7	
60	17	Trendeal	23			

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index

RACING

Conditions favour Strategic Choice in return contest

By Chris McGrath

OVER *recent months*, we have watched with varying degrees of pity and horror as boxers react in their different ways to the mental and physical torment of a title fight. There have been tears, craven hugs, torn ears. The Tripleprint Geoffrey Freer Stakes (3.00) at Newbury today hinges on how many scars the key protagonists carry after the most brutal of equine championship bouts.

The King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot was run in gruelling conditions, and the battle up the straight could leave its mark for a lifetime. Shantou, Predappio and Strategic Choice have only had three weeks. They were never, in truth, involved in the coruscating final act. But the one who prevails today will assuredly have a heart wrapped in barbed wire.

Shantou fared best behind Swain, finishing fifth, followed by Strategic Choice and Predappio. The St Leger winner, a notoriously difficult ride, would not immediately appeal as the toughest customer in the game. Indeed, Frankie Dettori's unavailability at Ascot tempted his trainer to pull him out altogether. In the event, Gary Hind took over, but was never really able to try the lock after they were elbowed out of contention at halfway.

Yet when Shantou had beaten Swain himself, on his previous start at Newmarket, Dettori had paid particular tribute to his partner's toughness. Either way, this inscrutable animal will certainly have his appetite tested on fast ground today, and is not an attractive proposition at a short price.

Predappio simply never got in the race at Ascot, lacking utterly in his usual spirit. If he were back to his plucky best today, he would savour the extra distance, but a good explanation for Ascot is needed before investing. His open connections have not come up with one.

By contrast, there is a good excuse for **Strategic Choice**, who was third in Lammtarra's King George two years ago, but had seemed off colour this spring. He must have fast ground. Despite his fruitless toil in the Ascot mud, there are now good reports of his wellbeing from Whatcombe. He stays well and is the value bet, restored to his favoured surface today.

Robert Sangster sponsors the Swettenham Stud St Hugh's Stakes (2.30), and his colours can be expected to figure prominently through **Child Prodigy**. Bill Watts rated this filly highly in the spring, but she has not done enough to dissuade him from retirement at the end of the season. Indeed, after defeat with honour in the Queen Mary, she only scrambled home in an Ayr maiden last time. But she barely stayed the sixth furlong there, and is expected to oblige dropped back in distance today.

The Andover Rated Stakes (2.00) looks tricky. Mr Sponge did not soak up the mud last time and could prove a different calibre of animal from his rivals, back on fast ground. If he goes off at a silly price, however, it may be worth a small interest in **Johnny Staccato**, who has been getting outpaced in sprints and steps up in trip.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Decorated Hero and Dettori, centre, take command in the Grosvenor Casinos Hungerford Stakes at Newbury yesterday

Shmoose helps stiffen sheikh's resolve

By Chris McGrath

IF SHEIKH MOHAMMED seemed to be moving rather stiffly as he approached the podium to receive another trophy at Newbury yesterday, you could sympathise. Lesser men would have been on their knees. The sheikh had just flown in from Wexford, after contesting a 12-hour, 100-mile endurance race on horseback. It has to be said that his jeans, while very natty, were a nice loose fit.

There was, happily, a lot more fluidity to the action of Shmoose, who had made all for the sheikh's Godolphin team in the Grosvenor Casino Bristol Fillies' Maiden Stakes. So much so, that William Hill makes her as short as 8-1 favourite for the 1,000 Guineas.

It was a confident debut, undoubtedly, albeit she drifted badly left inside the last. Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, said: "She has a lot to do before we can start talking about the Guineas, though it is always nice to dream. She does have bags of potential, and plenty of speed."

There was barely an hour's wait before another filly revealed her classic calibre in the Grosvenor Casinos Washington Singer Stakes. Bahr, an eight-length winner on easy ground on her Doncaster debut, kept on stoutly to beat some highly regarded colts on this faster going. She is 20-1 for the Oaks with the Tote and Barry Hills — saddling his fiftieth winner of the season — could not discourage investors. "She is by Generous out of a Mill Reef mare, so you have to think in those terms," he said.

Frankie Dettori, who rode Shmoose, sustained his championship challenge on Song Of Freedom and, in the Grosvenor Casinos Hungerford Stakes, Decorated Hero — who has been helping Benny The Dip prepare for the Juddmonte International Stakes on Tuesday.

John Gosden, their trainer, indicated that Willie Ryan will revert to the aggressive front-running tactics that won the Derby. "Pity it's another small field," Gosden said. "It didn't suit us, playing around in front in the Coral-Eclipse. He is better really using his action, as he showed in the Dante Stakes."

Bosra Sham, the York favourite, has been troubled by her old feet problems and was lame after working this week. But Henry Cecil hopes to emulate the way he got her through last year's 1,000 Guineas, after a similar panic. "She had her shoe put on and was led out this morning," the trainer said yesterday. "The soreness is less, and we are hopeful. We've got to canter her tomorrow and Sunday, and then give her a blowout on Monday. Things are going the right way, rather than the wrong way."

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 Kayvee
2.30 Socket Set
3.00 **SHANTOU** (nap)
3.30 Bold King
4.00 Blueprint
4.35 Fletcher
5.05 Faith Alone

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: **3.30 SAFFRON LANE.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 Shantou. 4.00 **SILVERTOWN** (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell P — pulled up. U — unseated rider B — brought down. S — slipped up R — refused D — disqualified). Horse's name Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor H — hood. E — Eyeshield C — course winner D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.00 ANDOVER RATED HANDICAP
BBC1
(£7,511: 7f 64yd) (10 runners)

101	(7)	21-4104	MESHHED 31 (BF,D,F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 3-9-7	R Hills	90
102	(6)	350-460	*LOCH PATRICK 14 (F,G,S) (Miss E L Collier) M Madgwick 7-9-6*	J Reid	89
103	(1)	0000682	LAW COMMISSION 15 (D,F) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 7-9-2	K Fallon	91
104	(9)	1-06	TYCOON TODD 70 (G) (M al-Maktoum) D Loder 3-9-2	W Ryan	89
105	(5)	-541340	SHARP HAT 14 (C,F,G,S) (J Smith) R Hanson 3-8-12	Dane O'Neill	90
106	(3)	0000603	KAYVEE 6 (D,F,G,S) (J Richmond-Watson) Mrs A Perrett 8-8-12	A Clark	95
107	(2)	4031000	*JOHNNY STACCATO 22 (G,S) (J Smith) J Eustace 3-8-10*	J Tate	●
108	(10)	313	MR SPONGE 52 (BF,D,F) (P Mellon) I Balding 3-8-7	L Dettori	92
109	(4)	232350	JUST NICK 15 (S) (D Clarke) W Muir 3-8-4	Martin Dwyer (3)	90
110	(8)	4-126	YOUNG PRECEDENT 71 (D,F) (Peodley Knights) P Harris 3-8-2	C Lowther (5)	88

BETTING: 7-2 Law Commission, 9-2 Kayvee, Mr Sponge, 7-1 Meshhed, Sharp Hat, 8-1 Tycoon Todd, 10-1 Just Nick, 12-1 others

1996: COOL EDGE 5-9-6 P Robinson (6-1) M Tompkins 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

MESHHED beat Nataka Bay 3½l in 5-runner conditions race at Leicester (7f, good to firm). LAW COMMISSION neck 2nd of 10 to Chewit in handicap at Ascot (7f, good) with KAYVEE (5lb better off) about 12l 8th.
TYCOON TODD beat Harry Wolton 2½l in 16-runner maiden at York (6f, good). SHARP HAT about 2¾l 4th of 19 to Return Of Amin in handicap at York (6f, good to soft).
KAYVEE 3½l 3rd of 8 to Fiona De Cool in handicap at Epsom (1m 114yd, good). JUST NICK about 2½l 5th of 28 to Fly To The Stars in the Britannia Handicap at Royal Ascot (1m, good)
Selection: LAW COMMISSION

TOMORROW'S FIXTURES: Lingfield Park (2.25 - 4.55), Newton Abbot (2.35 - 5.05), Pontefract (Tote Jackpot meeting, 2.15 - 5.15)

2.30 SWETTENHAM STUD ST HUGHS STAKES
BBC1
(Listed race: 2-Y-O: £9,904: 5f 34yd) (12 runners)

201	(5)	1244634	BANNINGHAM BLADE 15 (D,F,S) (Crown Select) K Ivory 8-11	Martin Dwyer	88
202	(1)	1212	DESERT LADY 16 (BF,D,F) (Thoroughbred Corp) R Charlton 8-11	T Sprake	92
203	(11)	3163332	AURIGNY 21 (D,F) (J & S Kelly) S Dow 8-8	S Sanders	●
204	(12)	3411151	BABY GRAND 15 (D,F,G) (Mrs D Sharp) T Barron 8-8	Kimberley Hart	92
205	(8)	301	CHILD PRODIGY 33 (F) (R Sangster) J Watts 8-8	J Reid	83
206	(9)	0221	CLOUDBERRY 23 (D,F) (Mrs D Coker) B Meehan 8-8	M Tebbutt	77
207	(7)	210	CONTRARY MARY 57 (D,F) (W Jackson) G Lewis 8-8	Pat Eddery	79
208	(6)	1212	DIM OTS 77 (D,F,S) (Mrs D Hughes) B Palling 8-8	J Quinn	72
209	(2)	4110	ITS ALL RELATIVE 15 (D,F,G) (R Leah) J Berry 8-8	G Duffield	92
210	(3)	322	LIKELY STORY 22 (BF) (M Page) J Dunlop 8-8	L Dettori	87
211	(4)	210122	MUGELLO 15 (D,F) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 8-8	M Hills	96
212	(10)	1014	SOCKET SET 21 (D,F) (J Fretwell) B McMahon 8-8	M Roberts	90

BETTING: 4-1 Mugello, 5-1 Likely Story, 6-1 Desert Lady, 7-1 Aurigny, 8-1 Banningham Blade, 10-1 others

1996: HEAD OVER HEELS 8-11 L Dettori (7-2 fav) J Gosden 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

DESERT LADY beat Ruzen 1¾l in 3-runner conditions stakes at Salisbury (5f, firm). AURIGNY short-neck 2nd of 7 to Greenlander in the Group II Robert Papin Stakes at Maisons-Laffitte (5f 110yd, soft). *BABY GRAND beat Shalyah 1½l in 8-runner* handicap at Thirsk (5f, good). CHILD PRODIGY beat Selkirk Rose head in 8-runner maiden at Ayr (6f, good to firm). CLOUDBERRY beat Statua neck in 8-runner auction maiden at Sandown (5f, good to firm). MUGELLO ½l 2nd of 13 to Lady Alexander in Molecomb Stakes at Goodwood (5f, good to firm) *with BANNINGHAM BLADE (3lb worse off) about* 1½l 4th and ITS ALL RELATIVE 2l 7th
Selection: MUGELLO

3.00 TRIPLEPRINT GEOFFREY FREER STAKES
BBC1
(Group II: £39,581: 1m 5f 61yd) (5 runners)

301	(1)	114-115	SHANTOU 21 (F,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-9	L Dettori	●
302	(2)	133-546	STRATEGIC CHOICE 21 (C,F,G) (M Arbib) P Cole 6-9-9	Pat Eddery	91
303	(5)	120-286	DUSHYANTOR 39 (F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 4-9-6	K Fallon	95
304	(3)	311-210	PREDAPPIO 21 (F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-6	J Reid	98
305	(4)	12-2134	PANAMA CITY 57 (F,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-6	D Harrison	90

BETTING: 6-4 Shantou, 3-1 Predappio, 4-1 Strategic Choice, 9-2 Dushyantor, 7-1 Panama City

1996: PHANTOM GOLD 4-9-3 L Dettori (6-1) Lord Huntingdon 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHANTOU 8¾l 5th of 8 to Swain in the King George Diamond stakes at Ascot (1m 4f, soft) with STRATEGIC CHOICE 5l 6th and PREDAPPIO (3lb better off) 3½l 7th.
PREDAPPIO beat Pilsudski ½l in the 10-runner Group II Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot (1m 4f, good) with DUSHYANTOR 7½l 6th. PANAMA CITY beat Ivan Luis head in the 5-runner Group III Chester Vase at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, soft).
Selection: SHANTOU

3.30 LEVY NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £4,991: 7f) (11 runners)

401	(10)	022	STONE OF DESTINY 22 (P Heath) B Meehan 9-7	Pat Eddery	94
402	(9)	020164	BATSWING 16 (S) (R Withers) M Meade 9-0	S Sanders	85
403	(3)	13424	SEA MAGIC 15 (S) (R Richards) B Hills 8-12	J Reid	96
404	(7)	222	BOLD KING 28 (Avon Industries Ltd) J Hills 8-10	M Hills	84
405	(2)	314	SAFFRON LANE 64 (G) (S L Partnership) R Hannon 8-6	L Dettori	●
406	(4)	4503	RINGLEADER 15 (Axom) P Cole 9-3	David O'Neill (7)	94
407	(11)	26U024	KENNET 14 (Miss M Fraser) P Cundell 8-2	J Quinn	97
408	(8)	540	WATHBAT LION 18 (Sheikh A al-Maktoum) M Jarvis 8-0	M Roberts	90
409	(5)	430	DELCIANA 12 (Delvecchian Dozen) P Harris 7-12	C Rutter	96
410	(6)	000101	ACID TEST 8 (D,F) (A de V Patrick) W Muir 7-10	Martin Dwyer (3)	97
411	(1)	0401	LOBUCHE 85 (BF) (D Gallop) R Hannon 7-10	N Carlisle	87

BETTING: 5-1 Acid Test, 6-1 Bold King, 7-1 Stone Of Destiny, Saffron Lane, 8-1 Sea Magic, 10-1 others

1996: DOUBLE GOLD 8-2 Martin Dwyer (6-1) B Meehan 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

STONE OF DESTINY 1½l 2nd of 8 to Krispy Knight in novice race at Newmarket (6f, good). SAFFRON *LANE beat Maftutlena 1¾l* in 5-runner novice race at Nottingham (6f, good). ACID TEST beat Sick As A Parrot neck in 7-runner handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). LOBUCHE (disqualified) beat Who Nose 1l in seller at Brighton (6f, firm)
Selection: KENNET (nap)

4.00 YATTENDON MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,302: 7f) (19)

501	(16)		BEAUCHAMP MAGIC (E Penser) J Dunlop 9-0	B Doyle	-
502	(10)		BLUE MONK (J Smith) I Balding 9-0	W Ryan	-
503	(19)		BLUEPRINT (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	K Fallon	-
504	(13)		*CHURLISH CHARM (M Suhail) R Hannon 9-0*	*D Harrison*	-
505	(11)	04	ERIKA'S YOUNG MAN 43 (G Butterfield) M Haynes 9-0	A Whelan (3)	-
506	(12)		GURKHA (R Russell) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill	-
507	(1)		KHALAS (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 9-0	R Street	-
508	(17)		KILIMANJARO (Tabor Mrs Magnier Lord Lloyd Webber) M Stoute 9-0	Pat Eddery	-
509	(7)	2	*MAHBOOB 35 (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 9-0*	R Hills	●
510	(8)		ONE DINAR (Greenfield Stud) J Gosden 9-0	M Roberts	-
511	(18)	0	OPPORTUNE 24 (J Smith) D Elsworth 9-0	A McGlone	-
512	(15)	0	PRAETORIAN GOLD 63 (Gold Buster Syndicate) R Hannon 9-0	W J O'Connor	-
513	(6)		PROLIX (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	-
514	(3)	2	*SILVERTOWN 24 (K Abdulla) J Gosden 9-0*	L Dettori	98
515	(14)	5	SOMAYDA 22 (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0	G Carter	88
516	(5)		VOODOO SAINT (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0	J Reid	-
517	(2)		WAVE ROCK (Earl Cadogan) J Dunlop 9-0	M Rimmer	-
518	(9)	60	IDA LUPINO 5 (A Steed) B Hills 8-9	J D Smith (3)	-
519	(4)	0	IVORY CHARM 12 (D Ivory) K Ivory 8-9	Martin Dwyer (3)	-

BETTING: 4-1 Silvertown, 5-1 Mahboob, 6-1 Kilimanjaro, Voodoo Saint, 8-1 One Dinar, Prolix, 10-1 Khalas, Somayda, 16-1 others

1996: MONZA 9-0 J Reid (11-4 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHURLISH CHARM (foaled Feb 3) second foal; dam third in Ribblesdale and Lancashire Oaks. KHALAS (Mar 7) first foal; dam, half-sister to Grand Prix de Paris and Melbourne Cup winner At Talaq, 1m 3f winner. KILIMANJARO (Feb 18, cost 500,000 guineas) half-brother to several winners including Dariyoun, smart stayer in France and Darazari, very smart middle-distance performer in France; dam, half-sister to French Derby winner Darshaan, Prix Vermeille winner. MAHBOOB 3½l 2nd of 9 to Canseille in novice race at Lingfield (7f, good to firm). SILVERTOWN 2½l 2nd of 9 to Trident in maiden at Sandown (7f, good to firm) with OPPORTUNE 13½l 9th. VOODOO SAINT (Apr 28, 170,000 guineas) half-brother to several winners in North America; dam winner eight times up to 1m 2f in North America.
Selection: KILIMANJARO

4.35 TRIUMVIRATE LIMITED STAKES
(£6,127: 1m 4f 5yd) (7 runners)

601	(2)	-336061	ROKEBY BOWL 31 (G) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-9-7	L Dettori	94
602	(3)	1-02501	TYKEYVOR 21 (D,F,S) (Seymour Bloodstock) Lady Herries 7-9-7	G Duffield	97
603	(4)	436-040	DANCE SO SUITE 21 (CD,F,G,S) (J Gutton) P Cole 5-9-6	J Reid	91
604	(6)	1230-00	LALLANS 18 (D,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Johnston 4-9-5	M Roberts	97
605	(5)	3441	MACHIAVELLI 39 (D,G) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) H Cecil 3-8-11	K Fallon	90
606	(1)	-033650	FLETCHER 18 (F) (Lady Margadale) H Morrison 3-8-9	D Harrison	●
607	(7)	21-60	ISLE OF MAN 71 (F) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 3-8-9	Pat Eddery	91

BETTING: 9-4 Rokeby Bowl, 3-1 Tykeyvor, 7-2 Machiavelli, 5-1 Dance So Suite, 8-1 Lallans, 14-1 others.

1996: WILLIE CONQUER 4-9-5 Paul Eddery (9-4) R Akehurst 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

ROKEBY BOWL beat Forza Figlio ¾l in 5-runner limited stakes at Sandown (1m 3f 91yd, good to firm). TYKEYVOR beat Vendian 1½l in 8-runner handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, soft) with DANCE SO SUITE (3lb better off) 11½l 7th. DANCE SO SUITE *5l 4th of 9 to Sir Talbot in handicap at Windsor (1m 2f good to firm)* LALLANS 14l 10th of 13 to *Media Star in handicap at Goodwood (1m 6f, good* to firm) with FLETCHER (3lb worse off) 13l 13th. MACHIAVELLI beat Nightlark head in 11-runner maiden at Pontefract (1m 4f, good). ISLE OF MAN 9l 6th of 10 to Falak in conditions race at Doncaster *(1m 2f 60yd, good to firm)*
Selection: ROKEBY BOWL

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	34	133	25.6	L Dettori	44	226	19.5
P Chapple-Hyam	38	164	23.2	J Reid	57	296	19.3
R Charlton	20	120	16.7	J Weaver	9	58	15.5
B Hanbury	8	49	16.3	W Ryan	15	99	15.2
E Dunlop	3	19	15.8	K Fallon	6	49	12.2

5.05 STRATTON HANDICAP (£5,381: 5f 34yd) (15 runners)

1	(5)	0-51230	TWICE AS SHARP 22 (D,F,G) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 5-10-0	C Lowther (5)	96
2	(11)	425200	CROFTERS CEILIDH 7 (D,F,S) (Mrs M Meddings) B McMahon 5-9-8	M Roberts	●
3	(12)	00-0040	BUSHCUTTER BAY 7 (V,D,F,G) P Gilligan 4-9-6	M Tebbutt	92
4	(7)	*0-00040*	*VAX STAR 12 (B,D,G) (Vax Ltd) J Spearing 3-9-4*	*W Ryan*	94
5	(14)	2011000	WHITE EMIR 14 (B,D,F,G,S) (Three Bears Racing) B Meehan 4-9-3	Pat Eddery	86
6	(15)	416051	SPENDER 53 (D,F,G) (Entrepreneurs) P Harris 8-9-2	M Henry (3)	88
7	(13)	415113	FAITH ALONE 12 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Neave) C Wall 4-9-2	G Duffield	94
8	(1)	21-4500	CLAN CHIEF 14 (D,F,G) (P Lowe) J Arnold 4-9-1	A Clark	91
9	(6)	*3134200*	*WILLOW DALE 14 (CD,F,S) D Elsworth 4-8-12*	*K Fallon*	94
10	(2)	1064023	SHARP PEARL 10 (B,D,F) (D Yardy) P R Webber 4-8-11	A McGlone	94
11	(9)	0010006	LONGWICK LAD 9 (D,F) (Mrs M Wickham) W Muir 4-8-8	J Reid	94
12	(4)	6132326	GI LA HIGH 59 (D) (Ledgewood Racing Club) M Meade 4-8-2	F Norton	89
13	(3)	1152004	POLLY GOLIGHTLY 16 (B,D,F) (D Sykes) M Blanshard 4-7-12	N Adams	94
14	(6)	*1060402*	*IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 10 (B,D,F) (D Ivory) K Ivory 4-7-12*	*Martin Dwyer (3)*	96
15	(10)	0054446	DANDE FLYER 3 (D,F,G) (Dandelion Distribution Ltd) D Arbuthnot 4-7-10	J Quinn	95

Long handicap: Dande Flyer 7-8.

BETTING: 6-1 Faith Alone, 7-1 Clan Chief, 8-1 Twice As Sharp, Crofters Ceilidh, Spender, Sharp Pearl, Gi La High, 10-1 others

1996: GLORIOUS ARAGON 4-8-13 T Quinn (14-1) R Johnson Houghton 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

TWICE AS SHARP 1l 2nd of 11 to Literary Society in handicap at Newmarket (5f, good to firm) ... CROFTERS CEILIDH 1l 2nd of 14 to [illegible] in handicap at York (5f, good) with TWICE AS SHARP (2lb worse off) neck 3rd.
SPENDER beat GI LA HIGH (11lb better off) neck in 9-runner handicap at Bath (5f 161yd, good to firm). FAITH ALONE beat WILLOW DALE (3lb better off) neck in 11-runner handicap at Sandown (5f, good to firm) with DANDE FLYER (5lb better off) 1¼l 5th, CLAN CHIEF (5lb better off) 5¾l 6th and WHITE EMIR (5lb better off) 11l 11th. IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 1¾l 2nd of 7 to Golden Pound in handicap at Brighton (6f, good) with SHARP PEARL neck 3rd.
DANDE FLYER about 3l 6th of 14 to Half Tone in handicap at Sandown (5f, good).
Selection: DANDE FLYER

☐ Alan Daly was handed a six-day whip ban (August 25-30) for marking and injuring Montendre, the veteran sprinter who finished third to Almasi in the Jack Colling Polar Jest Apprentice Handicap at Newbury yesterday.

MONDAY: Hamilton Park (first race, 2.15), Windsor (2.30).
TUESDAY: York (C4, 2.05), Folkestone (2.20).
WEDNESDAY: York (C4, 2.05), Musselburgh (2.20), Kempton Park (Sky, 5.30), Leicester (Sky, 5.40) Cartmel (5.20).
THURSDAY: York (C4, 2.05) Salisbury (2.15), Yarmouth (2.25).
FRIDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.10), Newmarket (2.00), Thirsk (2.20).
SATURDAY: Beverley (2.20), Goodwood (BBC, 2.15), Newmarket (2.00), Redcar (Sky, 5.40), Windsor (Sky, 5.20), Cartmel (2.25), Market Rasen (5.30).
Flat meetings denoted in bold

RACELINE
0930 168+ COMMENTARY RESULTS

NEWBURY	101	201
RIPON	102	202
BANGOR	103	203
STRATFORD	104	204
BRIGHTON	105	205
W'HAMPTON	106	206
N. ABBOT	107	207
IRISH	120	220
SUNDAY RACING		
PONTEFRACT	101	201
LINGFIELD	102	202
N. ABBOT	103	203

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
IRISH LOTTERY RESULT 0930 162 441
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. 845, [illegible]

RIPON

THUNDERER
2.15 Inkwell. 2.45 Mihnah. 3.15 Ballpoint. 3.45 Double Oscar. 4.15 Mbulwa. 4.50 Archello.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.15 HARROGATE SELLING HANDICAP
(3-Y-O £2,635: 1m 2f) (16 runners)

1	(8)	4450	RARE TALENT 14 M Channon 9-7	A Culhane	97
2	(10)	4063	MACARI 22 B Baugh 8-11	P Roberts (5)	88
3	(7)	3560	RED EMBERS 11 (G) D Nicholls 8-11	Alex Greaves	89
4	(11)	600	NORDICO MELODY 22 Mrs S Smith 8-5	D Sweeney (3)	84
5	(2)	6402	GYMCRAK GORJOS 21 (B) G Holmes 8-5	K Darley	94
6	(9)	0000	MISTER JAY 37 K Morgan 8-3	Jo Hunnam (7)	90
7	(15)	6600	PEMBERLEY 14 W Haggas 8-2	F Lynch	96
8	(13)	063	PETUNTSE 15 (E) J Smyth-Osbourne 8-1	J F Egan	●
9	(6)	5-00	PERFECT BEAR 22 Mrs S Smith 7-12	A Mackay	—
10	(4)	3000	BALI-PET 3 J Parkes 7-11	T Williams	90
11	(14)	0426	INKWELL 10 (BF) A Hide 7-10	Dale Gibson	95
12	(1)	0060	MISTERTON 47 (B,BF) J Glover 7-10	G Bardwell	98
13	(12)	555	LA PERDOMA 12 Miss M Milligan 7-10	P Fessey (3)	—
14	(16)	0000	RISKY FLIGHT 12 A Smith 7-10	J Lowe	—
15	(3)	0565	GROVEFAIR LAD 7 (V) M Wane 7-10	Jenny Benson (7)	97
16	(5)	0044	ALISADARA 7 N Bycroft 7-10	L Charnock	95

5-1 Petuntse, 13-2 Inkwell, 7-1 Alisadara, 8-1 Rare Talent, 12-1 others

2.45 KNARESBOROUGH CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,308: 6f) (8)

1	(3)	104	AIX EN PROVENCE 28 (D,G) M Johnston 9-3	D Holland	●
2	(7)	510	FASHION VICTIM 17 (F) T Caldwell 9-3	A Culhane	89
3	(6)	4214	PRIX STAR 16 (V,S) C Fairhurst 9-3	L Charnock	94
4	(8)	04	NOBLE DEMAND 9 Mrs J Ramsden 8-11	J Fortune	91
5	(4)	4	MIHNAH 36 D Morley 8-6	R Cochrane	89
6	(2)	3633	MISS PUCI 18 J Berry 8-6	P Fessey (3)	86
7	(1)		MOVING PRINCESS Miss S Hall 8-6	K Darley	—
8	(5)		UNIFORM Miss S Hall 8-6	K Hodgson	—

2-1 Mihnah, 3-1 Aix En Provence, 7-2 Noble Demand, 7-1 Prix Star, 10-1 others

3.15 BILLY NEVETT MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP (£3,389: 1m 4f 60yd) (5)

1	(5)	5404	BALLPOINT 11 (D,G) G M Moore 4-9-10	J Fortune	94
2	(2)	5246	SUGA HAWK 29 (BF,S) E Alston 5-8-11	J F Egan	95
3	(1)	*2410*	*GOLD DESIRE 9 (D,F,G,S) M Brittain 7-8-9*	G Bardwell	●
4	(3)	2551	YET AGAIN 13 (D,F) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-8	J Carroll	91
5	(4)	000/	TOSHIBA TALK 84J (F) B Ellison 5-7-10	L Charnock	—

7-4 Yet Again, 2-1 Gold Desire 4-1 Ballpoint, Suga Hawk, 33-1 Toshiba Talk

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss G Kelleway, 3 winners from 8 runners, 37.5%; J Dunlop, 12 from 42, 28.6%; W Haggas, 5 from 26, 19.2%; M Channon, 6 from 33, 18.2%; M Johnston, 21 from 117, 17.9%.

JOCKEYS: R Cochrane, 15 winners from 65 rides, 23.1%; K Darley, 35 from 170, 20.6%; D Holland 4 from 28, 14.3%; J Carroll, 20 from 153, 13.1%; P Fessey, 4 from 31, 12.9%. Only qualifiers

3.45 WILLIAM HILL GREAT ST WILFRID HANDICAP (£20,470: 6f) (21)

1	(11)	2512	MY BEST VALENTINE 14 (F,G,S) V Soane 7-10-0	R Cochrane	96
2	(12)	2642	VENTURE CAPITALIST 17 (B,D,F,G) D Nicholls 8-9-13	Alex Greaves	91
3	(5)	3600	EMERGING MARKET 37 (D,F) J Dunlop 5-9-8	K Darley	91
4	(19)	1304	TADEO 7 (F,G,S) M Johnston 4-9-8	Dean McKeown	97
5	(13)	6633	ZIGGY'S DANCER 13 (D,F,G) E Alston 6-9-5	J F Egan	88
6	(7)	1011	BOWDEN ROSE 6 (B,D,F,G) M Blanshard 5-9-3	D Sweeney (3)	92
7	(10)	1400	DOUBLE ACTION 12 (CD,F,G) T Easterby 3-9-2	L Charnock	98
8	(20)	3111	SO INTREPID 12 (CD,F,G,S) J Bradley 7-8-13	J Fortune	94
9	(21)	0064	BABSY BABE 12 (D,F,S) J J Quinn 4-8-13	A Culhane	95
10	(16)	5352	GADGE 12 (D,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-8-12	D Wright	93
11	(14)	100	CANOVAS HEART 22 (C,F,G,S) Bob Jones 8-8-10	N Day	93
12	(18)	0362	BRUTAL FANTASY 15 (D,F,G) J Eyre 3-8-9	R Winston (7)	94
13	(17)	4451	GOLDEN POUND 10 (B,D,F) Miss G Kelleway 5-8-7	J Carroll	89
14	(4)	5145	*TILER 12 (D,F,S) M Johnston 5-8-5*	D Holland	94
15	(1)	2110	*DOUBLE OSCAR 3 (BF,D,F,G) D Nicholls 4-8-4*	F Lynch	93
16	(3)	1-00	URSA MAJOR 7 (D) P Kelleway 3-8-3	D Biggs	90
17	(6)	3302	IVORY DAWN 7 (D,G) K Ivory 3-8-2	J Lowe	94
18	(15)	5451	MR TEIGH 13 (F) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-1	J Fanning	97
19	(9)	0034	FOR THE PRESENT 8 (CD,F) T Barron 7-8-0	D Gibson	●
20	(2)	1143	CAUTION 15 (D,F) S Gollings 3-7-13	P Fessey (3)	90
21	(8)	5256	JUST LOUI 15 (D) K Burke 3-7-11	G Bardwell	94

9-2 My Best Valentine, 7-1 Gadge, 8-1 So Intrepid, 10-1 Tadeo, 12-1 others

4.15 ROTHMANS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (£5,920 1m 1f) (12)

1	(3)	4102	DURAID 18 (G) D Smith 5-10-0	A Culhane	95
2	(12)	3431	PRIDE OF PENDLE 10 (C,D,F) M Wane 8-10-0	J Carroll	96
3	(2)	0046	PLAN FOR PROFIT 7 (F,G) M Johnston 3-9-11	D Holland	91
4	(4)	0120	MUKHATAB 125 (F,G) J J Quinn 5-9-11	J Fanning	—
5	(6)	0121	HIGH SPIRITS 13 (B,F,S) T Easterby 3-9-0	L Charnock	95
6	(5)	5162	*BOWCLIFFE 18 (C,F,G) E Alston 6-8-13*	*J Fortune*	95
7	(11)	000	WAASEF 23 Miss G Kelleway 4-8-12	R Cochrane	96
8	(10)	0050	FOREST ROBIN 19 (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-5	M Deering	●
9	(8)	0225	KEEP BATTLING 8 (F,G) J Goldie 7-8-1	P Fessey (3)	95
10	(7)	0413	SILENT VALLEY 9 (V,F) Miss L Siddall 3-8-0	G Bardwell	96
11	(9)	*0002*	*MBULWA 5 (C,D,F,G,S) R Fahey 11-7-13*	Dale Gibson	96
12	(1)	5204	NOBBY BARNES 13 (D,F,G) E Incisa 8-7-10	Kim Tinkler	97

4-1 High Spirits, 5-1 Pride Of Pendle, 6-1 Bowcliffe, 7-1 Mbulwa, 8-1 Duraid, Plan For Profit, 10-1 Keep Battling, Silent Valley, 12-1 others

4.50 BOROUGHBRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,453: 5f) (12)

1	(4)	*0005*	*GOOD TO TALK 12 T Easterby 4-9-2*	R Winston (7)	70
2	(7)	006	BEAU TUDOR 19 Miss L Siddall 3-9-0	T Siddall (7)	—
3	(2)	000	BRIGHT GOLD 14 A Smith 3-9-0	J Lowe	66
4	(11)	0000	COLONEL'S PRIDE 17 (V) R Whitaker 3-9-0	D McKeown	—
5	(3)	5426	GHARIB 29 A Stewart 3-9-0	S Whitworth	●
6	(1)	0035	NIGHT EXPRESS 7 B Hanbury 3-9-0	P Fessey (3)	87
7	(9)	5026	PRINCE OF PARKES 44 (B) J Berry 3-9-0	P Roberts (5)	87
8	(12)	3063	DONA FILIPA 19 Miss L Siddall 4-8-11	D Pears	80
9	(10)	2243	ARCHELLO 16 G Oldroyd 3-8-9	J Fortune	98
10	(6)	0054	BLUE LAMP 19 M Jarvis 3-8-9	R Cochrane	94
11	(5)	0230	HILTONS EXECUTIVE 12 E Alston 3-8-9	L Charnock	73
12	(8)		PASSIONATTI S Gollings 3-8-9	J Carroll	—

6-4 Gharib, 5-1 Archello, 6-1 Night Express, 8-1 Prince Of Parkes, Blue Lamp, 10-1 Dona Filipa, 14-1 Good To Talk, 16-1 others

BRIGHTON

THUNDERER
5.40 Action Jackson. 6.10 Truth Teller. 6.40 Friendly Brave. 7.10 Sharpo Wassl. 7.40 Secret Strength. 8.10 Freedom Chance.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

5.40 ROTTINGDEAN APPRENTICE HANDICAP
(£2,647: 1m 1f 209yd) (8 runners)

1	4210	SODA POP 14 (C,F) G L Moore 3-10-0	M Batchelor (5)	6
2	2560	*FATHER DAN 75 (D,F,G) Miss G Kelleway 8-9-10*	J Wilkinson (3)	2
3	0100	ROMAN REEL 53 (CD,F) G L Moore 6-9-7	Cheryl Bone (7)	7
4	3405	ACTION JACKSON 17 (D,F,G) B McMath 5-9-7	A Polli (3)	1
5	0041	WENTBRIDGE LAD 1 (V,F,S) A Bailey 7-9-10	R Studholme (5)	5
6	3531	COLOUR COUNSELLOR 10 (B,CD,F,G) R Flower 4-9-1	G Faulkner	4
7	2003	SQUARE MILE MISS 37 P Howling 4-8-11	M Baird	8
8	*4040*	*ROYAL ACCLAIM 13 (V,F,S) K Burke 12-8-1*	Emily Joyce (5)	3

11-4 Square Mile Miss, 7-2 Colour Counsellor, 9-2 Wentbridge Lad, 11-2 Father Dan, 6-1 Action Jackson, 7-1 Soda Pop, 8-1 Roman Reel, 25-1 Royal Acclaim

6.10 E.B.F. ALFRISTON NOVICE STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,205 5f 59yd) (7)

1	010	TRUTH TELLER 71 (C,F) R Hannon 9-2	Dane O'Neill	4
2	1400	LADY MOLL 28 (D,G) R Boss 8-13	K Fallon	5
3	065	AL MABROOK 14 K Mahdi 8-12	G Lowther (5)	6
4	00	FACILE TIGRE 33 S Dow 8-12	D O'Donohoe (3)	1
5	5550	HIGH MONEY 33 (B) G Lewis 8-12	Paul Eddery	2
6	6005	RED PEPPER 17 P Howling 8-12	T Sprake	3
7	60	TO LOVE WITH LOVE 29 W Jarvis 8-7	J Quinn	7

5-4 Truth Teller 7-2 Lady Moll, 5-1 Al Mabrook, 10-1 High Money, 16-1 Facile Tigre, Red Pepper, To Love With Love

6.40 DOWNS SELLING STAKES
SKY
(£1,985: 5f 213yd) (13)

1	-3-0	BEE DEE BEST 12 J Smith 6-9-3	R Price	10
2	0040	DARK MENACE 13 (B,CD,F) E Wheeler 5-9-3	S Carson (7)	2
3	2056	FRIENDLY BRAVE 12 (D,F,S) Miss G Kelleway 7-9-3	K Fallon	3
4	0290	LANCASHIRE LEGEND 17 S Dow 4-9-3	D O'Donohoe (3)	11
5	000-	MONTRESTAR 322 (V,F) A Bailey 4-9-3	G Faulkner (5)	12
6	0155	SHASHI 6 (D,F) Pat Mitchell 5-9-3	P Bloomfield	13
7	0045	THE FRISKY FARMER 24 (D,F,S) W G M Turner 4-9-3	C Lowther (5)	7
8	3020	TACKER 25 W Jarvis 3-9-0	J Quinn	9
9	1450	THIRD PARTY 7 (CD,F) S Dow 3-9-0	Dane O'Neill	4
10	40-0	BELLA'S LEGACY 29 K Burke 4-8-12	T Sprake	5
11	0000	CITIC DEBT 8 (B) J Pearce 4-8-12	Leesa Long	6
12	3204	NELLIE NORTH 8 (B,F) G McCourt 4-8-12	Paul Eddery	8
13	4005	CASPIAN MORN 22 (D,F) W G M Turner 3-8-9	P Doe (7)	1

3-4 Friendly Brave 5-1 Tacker 13-2 Nellie North, 7-1 Dark Menace, 8-1 Third Party Caspian Morn 10-1 Lancashire Legend, 12-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 2 10 Leg Beforum. 3 40 Annie's Kitchen Brighton: 6 10 High Money 7 10 Kalimat. Wolverhampton: 8 00 Grand Hotel, My Girl Lucy 9 00 Silver Button

7.10 SOUTHERN FM CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,784: 7f 214yd) (7)
SKY

1	0301	OLIVO 23 (CD,F) C Horgan 9-7	Paul Eddery	6
2	*2163*	*SHARPO WASSL 19 (G) W Haggas 9-6*	*K Fallon*	4
3	1-60	ZIMIRI 49 (D) J Toller 9-5	A Clark	2
4	0000	ORTELIUS 61 (F) R Hannon 9-4	Dane O'Neill	3
5	3622	KALIMAT 26 (B,BF) W Jarvis 9-1	J Quinn	5
6	6300	PERFECT POPPY 49 S Dow 8-10	D O'Donohoe (3)	1
7	0-60	GROVEFAIR VENTURE 15 K Mahdi 8-9	C Lowther (5)	7

13-8 Sharpo Wassl, 5-2 Olivo, 7-2 Kalimat, 10-1 Zimiri, 12-1 Perfect Poppy, 14-1 Ortelius, 25-1 Grovefair Venture

7.40 SOUTH COAST LIMITED STAKES
SKY
(3-Y-O: £2,277: 7f 214yd) (12)

1	0061	HOMESTEAD 10 (C,G) R Hannon 9-1	Dane O'Neill	8
2	6002	ABSTONE QUEEN 7 (V,F,G) P Evans 8-12	J Quinn	10
3	6606	BE TRUE 23 (V) G L Moore 8-12	Candy Morris	11
4	0600	SEAMUS 10 C Hill 8-12	A Polli (3)	5
5	0000	SECRET STRENGTH 29 Lady Herries 8-12	A Clark	7
6	3340	TALISMAN 127 S Dow 8-12	D O'Donohoe (3)	9
7	0330	TEZAAB 7 B Hanbury 8-12	J Stack	6
8	2432	WARRIOR KING 9 (BF) C Dwyer 8-12	K Fallon	4
9	-026	*FABLE 61 J Toller 8-9*	Paul Eddery	2
10	3006	LOCHLASS 17 S Woods 8-9	M Henry (3)	12
11	0000	ROYAL EMBLEM 31 A Foster 8-9	T Sprake	1
12	-304	SUPER SCRAVELS 14 K Mahdi 8-9	C Lowther (5)	3

9-2 Homestead, 5-1 Tezaab 6-1 Warrior King, 13-2 Abstone Queen, 7-1 Talisman, 8-1 Super Scravels, 10-1 Be True, Secret Strength Lochlass, 12-1 others

8.10 DUKE OF NORFOLK MEMORIAL HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,646: 1m 3f 196yd) (4)
SKY

1	3442	FREEDOM CHANCE 19 (V,F) J Hills 9-7	M Henry (3)	4
2	5311	RUNNING FREE 8 (D,F,S) M Fetherston-Godley 8-4	Dane O'Neill	2
3	4530	CASTLES BURNING 15 C Cyzer 7-13	A Polli (5)	1
4	6200	BEWITCHING LADY 3 (V) D Arbuthnot 7-11	J Quinn	3

2-1 Freedom Chance, 5-2 Bewitching Lady, 3-1 Running Free, 7-2 Castles Burning

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Gay Kelleway, 12 winners from 61 runners, 19.7%; B Hanbury, 3 from 16, 18.8%; S Woods, 5 from 27, 18.5%; P Evans, 4 from 22, 18.2%; R Hannon, 33 from 194, 17.0%.

JOCKEYS: Dane O'Neill, 19 winners from 103 rides, 18.4%; Paul Eddery, 11 from 86, 12.8%; M Henry, 5 from 42, 11.9%; J Quinn, 10 from 86, 11.6%. Only qualifiers

Deauville raiders fail

CRYSTAL HEARTED, trained by Henry Candy and ridden by Tony McGlone, finished second to the Francois Doumen-trained Rajpoute in the £33,670 Prix Guillaume d'Ornano at Deauville yesterday.

He made nearly all the running and was beaten three quarters of a length, with the David Platt-owned Handsome Ridge a neck behind him.

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10/1	Gadge	16/1	Venture Capitalist
11/1	Double Action	20/1	Brutal Fantasy
11/1	So Intrepid	22/1	Ziggy's Dancer
12/1	Emerging Market	25/1	Canovas Heart
12/1	Tadeo	25/1	Ivory Dawn
14/1	Bowden Rose	40/1	Caution
14/1	For The Present	40/1	Just Loui
14/1	Golden Pound	50/1	Ursa Major
14/1	Mr Teigh		

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RACING: MILE CONTEST DRAWS COMPETITIVE FIELD TO NORMANDY TRACK

Starborough seeks straight answer

By Our French Racing Correspondent

STARBOROUGH attempts to record only the second British victory in the last 13 runnings of the Prix du Haras du Fresnay-Le-Buffard Jacques le Marois over the straight mile at Deauville tomorrow. The David Loder-trained colt, to be ridden by Frankie Dettori, already has two group ones races to his name, the Prix Jean Prat at Chantilly in May and the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Loder blamed the sharp track when Starborough was beaten into second by Ali-Royal in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, and the fear remains that a mile may be on the short side for him.

Daylami and Zamindar, two of the principal French hopes, have been beaten by Starborough in Britain this season, but now enjoy home advantage. Daylami was an impressive winner of the Dubai Poule d'Essai des Poulains — the French 2,000 Guineas — at Longchamp in May before finishing five lengths third in the St James's Palace.

Zamindar has failed to live up to the expectations of his trainer, André Fabre, this season. Fifth, three-quarters of a length behind Starborough, in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, he was beaten three-quarters of a length by Monaassib when dropped to six furlongs in the Prix de Ris-Orangis last time.

Spinning World attempts to follow up his victory in this race 12 months ago and will have the benefit of a pacemaker, Piperi, whose presence could unsettle the front-running Starborough. Spinning World made a winning reappearance but has not run since finishing a distant fourth to First Island in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury. Owned by the race sponsors, the Niarchos family, the son of Nureyev has been prepared with this event in mind.

The line-up is completed by another Fabre representative, Neuilly. He sprang a 20-1 surprise over this course and distance last month in the group three Prix Messidor but needs to continue his rapid improvement to be a factor.

☐ Lord Of Men is the only British challenger in a field of five for the group three Prix Gontaut-Biron over ten furlongs at Deauville today. John Gosden has booked Sylvain Guillot to ride. Nothin' Leica Dane, second in the 1995 Melbourne Cup, makes his European debut in the race.

Starborough carries British hopes at Deauville tomorrow

DEAUVILLE TOMORROW

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.35 PRIX DU HARAS DE FRESNAY-LE-BUFFARD JACQUES LE MAROIS (Group I: £112,233: 1m str) (6 runners)

1	(2)	6122-14	SPINNING WORLD (Niarchos Family) J Pease 4-9-4	C Asmussen
2	(1)	1123-52	ZAMINDAR (K Abdulla) A Fabre 3-8-11	O Peslier
3	(5)	112-113	DAYLAMI (Aga Khan) A de Royer-Dupre 3-8-11	G Mosse
4	(4)	-14112	STARBOROUGH (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder (GB) 3-8-11	L Dettori
5	(3)	-141	NEUILLY (Mme P de Moussac) A Fabre 3-8-11	T Jarnet
6	(6)	4-62151	PIPERI (Niarchos Family) J Pease 3-8-11	F Sanchez

BETTING: 7-4 Daylami, 9-4 Spinning World and Piperi (coupled in pari mutuel pools), 3-1 Starborough, 9-2 Zamindar, 14-1 Neuilly.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury

Going: good to firm

2.10 (6f 8yd) 1, SHMOOSE (L Dettori, 1-3 fav); 2, Musical Twist (K Fallon, 16-1); 3, Thanksgiving (G Carter, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Second Chorus, 14 Transylvania, 20 Gandoura (6th), 33 Celtic Cross (4th), Greeba, Maielle, March Fourteenth, 40 Azulino, Emmajoun, 50 Amabel, Sweet Sorrow (5th), 66 Loubin Lane, 100 Little Cracker. 16 ran. 1½l, 4l, hd, 2½l, ¾l. S bin Suroor at Newmarket. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £3.90, £2.30. DF: £21.10. Trio: £48.30. CSF: £7.81.

2.40 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, SONG OF FREEDOM (L Dettori, 5-4 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Bali Paradise (Pat Eddery, 7-1); 3, Prince Of Denial (S Whitworth, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 15-2 Party Romance, 10 Chief Monarch (5th), 14 Marie Dora (4th), Shadoof (6th), 16 Premier Bay, 20 Byzantium, 33 Cinema Paradiso, Gift Token, Raindancing. 12 ran. Nk, hd, 1¾l, hd, 1¾l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £2.20; £1.20, £2.40, £2.90. DF: £8.30. Trio: £54.70. CSF: £8.48. Tricast: £63.52.

3.10 (7f) 1, BAHR (M Hills, 2-1 fav); 2, Quiet Assurance (K Fallon, 8-1); 3, Fruits Of Love (J Weaver, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 11-4 City Honours (4th), 14 Speaker's Chair (5th), 20 Boranl (6th). 6 ran. ¾l, 1¾l, nk, 9l, 12l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £2.60; £1.90, £3.60. DF: £15.60. CSF: £15.73.

3.40 (7f 64yd) 1, DECORATED HERO (L Dettori, 11-4; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Bin Rosie (Pat Eddery, 10-1); 3, Unconditional Love (J Weaver, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 7-4 fav Dazzle (6th), 8 Cadeaux Tryst, 12 Captain Collins (4th), 16 Almushtarak (5th), Miss Riviera, Tumbleweed Ridge, 50 Hello Mister. 10 ran. 1l, ¾l, ½l, 1¾l, ¾l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £2.70, £3.20. DF: £16.60. Trio: £67.00. CSF: £28.41.

4.10 (1m 4f 5yd) 1, BUSY FLIGHT (M Hills, 4-5 fav, Richard Evans's nap); 2, Yorkshire (J Reid, 11-2); 3, Bright Water (K Fallon, 6-4). 3 ran. NR: Pentad. 1l, 2l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £1.70. DF: £2.50. CSF: £4.51.

4.40 (2m) 1, MAWARED (R Hills, 5-4 fav); 2, Vicki Romara (M Roberts, 8-1); 3, Benjamins Law (J Fowle, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Children's Choice (5th), 13-2 Thaljanah (4th). 5 ran. 3l, 1¾l, 13l, 10l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.80. DF: £9.60. CSF: £10.93.

5.10 (6f 8yd) 1, ALMASI (Jo Hunnam, 5-1); 2, Scissor Ridge (R Brisland, 14-1); 3, Montendre (A Daly, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 jt-fav Delta Soleil, Resist The Force (4th), 5 Patsy Grimes (5th), 8 Lady Diesis, 12 Croeso Cynnes, Erupt (6th), The Fugative, 16 Samwar. 11 ran. NR: Ibis, John Emms, Mister Jolson. Hd, 1¾l, 1¾l, nk, sh hd. C Wall at Newmarket. Tote: £5.30; £1.80, £3.70, £2.30. DF: £60.80. Trio: £102.90. CSF: £70.35. Tricast: £757.90.

Jackpot: £92.80.

Placepot: £17.10.

Quadpot: £14.40.

Brighton

Going: good to firm

2.00 (5f 59yd) 1, MISHRAAK (R Price, 9-1); 2, Overture (R Hughes, 15-8 fav); 3, High Gain (J Quinn, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Corsecan (6th), Mrs Middle (4th), 14 Private Seal (5th). 6 ran. NR: Jus'chillin'. Hd, 2l, hd, 3½l, 2l. R Armstrong at Newmarket. Tote: £4.30; £1.70, £1.30. DF: £3.00. CSF: £8.03.

2.30 (7f 214yd) 1, FLOOD'S HOT STUFF (N Adams, 5-1); 2, My Beloved (R Hughes, 8-13 fav); 3, Tulsa (R Ffrench, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 20 M T Vessel (5th), 33 Ewar Snowflake (4th). 5 ran. NR: Rae Un Soleil. Nk, 1¼l, 8l, 27l. N Littmoden at Wolverhampton. Tote: £6.10; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £2.40. CSF: £7.31.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MIHNAH
(2.45 Ripon)

Next best: Shantou
(3.00 Newbury)

Thunderer gave six of the seven winners at Newbury yesterday, including Almasi (5-1) and Decorated Hero (11-4), who was top-rated by The Times Private Handicapper (Gerald Hubbard)

3.00 (6f 209yd) 1, LA CHATELAINE (R Ffrench, 100-30); 2, Hever Golf Mover (A Clark, 9-4 fav); 3, Tabasco Jazz (D R McCabe, 9-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Havago (4th), 9 Cold Steel (6th), 10 Sheraton Girl, 14 Charlton Spring, 25 Sun O'Tirol (5th). 8 ran. ¾l, 2½l, 2l, 1¾l, 1l. G Lewis at Epsom. Tote: £4.20; £1.40, £1.10, £2.00. DF: £5.20. CSF: £10.40. Tricast: £55.07.

3.30 (1m 3f 196yd) 1, OPERA BUFF (J Wilkinson, 11-2); 2, Sapphire Son (R Ffrench, 9-2); 3, Sovereign Crest (J Quinn, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Burning (5th), 4 Palamon (4th), 9 Prince Danzig (6th). 6 ran. Nk, 1l, 2l, ½l, 12l. Miss G Kelleway at Whitcombe. Tote: £5.70; £3.00, £2.40. DF: £10.10. CSF: £27.75.

4.00 (1m 3f 196yd) 1, KEEN WATERS (A Clark, 11-8 fav); 2, Haydown (Kelli Phillips, 20-1); 3, Chopin (J Quinn, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Na Hubheachu (6th), 9-2 Kingsdown Trix (4th), 25 Telephus (5th). 6 ran. NR: Carol's Dream. 2l, 3l, 2½l, 3½l, 8l. J Arnold at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £6.10. DF: £18.20. CSF: £27.93.

4.30 (6f 209yd) 1, STEP ON DEGAS (R Ffrench, 3-1); 2, Mybotye (D R McCabe, 11-4 fav); 3, Pearl Dawn (N Adams, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Crystal Heights (5th), 11-2 Ed's Folly (4th), 12 Lady Godiva (6th), 14 Silver Purse, 16 Moi Canard, 20 Soviet Lady, 25 Velvet Jones, 33 Jubilee Scholar, Newington Butts, Polgwynne. 13 ran. NR: Fort Knox, Scathebury. Hd, ¾l, 1l, ½l, 3½l. M Fetherston-Godley at East Ilsley. Tote: £4.00; £1.60, £2.70, £7.00. DF: £6.50. Trio: £95.00. CSF: £10.62.

Placepot: £16.80.

Quadpot: £9.50.

Southwell

Going: standard

1.50 (7f) 1, Oberon's Dart (Paul Eddery, 11-2); 2, Be Warned (7-1); 3, Bold Street (6-1). Bagshot 11-4 fav. 12 ran. NR: Everset, Yanavenavano. 8l, 1¾l. P Makin. Tote: £6.70; £2.60, £2.60, £2.70. DF: £11.50. Trio: £35.70. CSF: £36.04.

2.20 (6f) 1, Newlands Corner (D Biggs, 13-2); 2, Zalotto (7-1); 3, Hannah's Usher (14-1). Stolen Kiss 11-2 fav. 14 ran. NR: Rich Glow, Tithcar. 1½l, hd. J Akehurst. Tote: £7.50; £2.10, £3.70, £6.20. DF: £24.00. Trio: £231.60 (part won. Pool of £228.34 carried forward to 5.05 Newbury today). CSF: £48.36. Tricast: £583.15.

2.50 (7f) 1, Deeply Vale (M Wigham, 10-1); 2, Thordis (9-2); 3, Legend Of Aragon (5-1). Desert Invader 5-2 fav. 11 ran. NR: Celia's Rainbow, Sharp Return. 1½l, 4l. G L Moore. Tote: £9.40; £2.50, £1.50, £2.60. DF: £27.90. Trio: £107.80. CSF: £48.75.

3.20 (1m) 1, Liquid Gold (Emma O'Gorman, 11-1); 2, Sparky (8-1); 3, Johnnie The Joker (14-1); 4, Our People (14-1). Jibereen 5-1 jt-fav. 16 ran. 6l, 9l. W O'Gorman. Tote: £12.60; £3.50, £1.70, £3.50, £5.10. DF: £94.50. Trio: £409.20 (part won. Pool of £374.69 carried forward to 5.05 Newbury today). CSF: £94.19. Tricast: £1,173.97.

3.50 (1m 4f) 1, Classic Ballet (P Roberts, 13-8 fav); 2, Foolish Flutter (7-2); 3, Nicola's Princess (10-1). 7 ran. 6l, 7l. R Guest. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £3.20. DF: £5.20. CSF: £7.02.

4.20 (5f) 1, Beechwood Quest (L Charnock, 7-4 fav); 2, Ok John (5-1); 3, Charlies Lad (3-1). 13 ran. NR: Precisely. Hd, 1¼l. B Rothwell. Tote: £4.10; £1.10, £2.50, £1.70. DF: £11.60. Trio: £5.60. CSF: £10.80. No bid.

4.55 (1m 6f) 1, Robbo (Mr J Crowley, 5-1); 2, Needwood Epic (4-1 fav); 3, Mrs Drummond (8-1). 9 ran. 6l, 1¼l. C Thornton. Tote: £4.70; £1.20, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £15.00. Trio: £20.60. CSF: £22.98. Tricast: £143.16.

Placepot: £287.00.

Quadpot: £26.10.

King Of Kings to hold court

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

KING OF KINGS attempts to pump some air back into his deflated reputation in today's listed Flame Of Tara Tyros Stakes at the Curragh and it will be a major disappointment if this 2,000 Guineas hope does not win this at his leisure.

His short-head defeat by Lady Alexander in the Anglesey Stakes here last month seemed a shock of seismic proportions at the time, but the winner's subsequent Molecomb Stakes victory at Goodwood and the Heinz 57 Phoenix Stakes success of Princely Heir have put a different complexion on it.

Nevertheless, King Of Kings will have to win well today to live up to his hyped reputation. The most dangerous of his five-strong opposition looks to be the Mark Johnston-trained Sharp Play, an impressive winner on his debut at York last month, but it will be a surprise if he is good enough to account for King Of Kings.

Other British interest today centres on the Ridgewood Pearl Desmond Stakes, where half of the eight-runner field are British, and on the Royal Whip Stakes, where King Alex and Catienus take on the Arc third, Oscar Schindler.

Gothenberg and Cool Edge look sure to make the Desmond Stakes a fast-run affair, which could allow the Irish 2,000 Guineas runner-up, Verglas, the chance to pounce. King Alex looks the value in the Royal Whip, where the ten-furlong trip looks to be short of Oscar Schindler's best.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

2.10 Amitge. 2.40 Lord Nitrogen. 3.10 Pond House. 3.40 Khalikoum. 4.10 Bit Of A Dream. 4.40 Totally Yours.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.10 KINGPIN LABOUR HIRE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,710: 2m 1f) (5 runners)

1	1	DAWN SUMMIT 15 (CD,G) P Bradley 11-5	Mr R Thornton (3)
2	0	JACKSON FALLS 14 T Easterby 10-12	DOUBTFUL
3	0	LEG BEFORUM 14 (B) M Sowersby 10-12	A Dobbin
4		TERAAB 138F C Mann 10-12	J Magee (3)
5		AMITGE 36F M Pipe 10-7	A P McCoy

4-5 Amitge, 3-1 Teraab, 7-2 Dawn Summit, 10-1 Leg Beforum.

2.40 ROYAL WELCH FUSILIERS TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £3,485: 2m 4f) (8)

1	-221	LORD NITROGEN 14 (F,G) B Llewellyn 7-11-10	J L Llewellyn (5)
2	3-23	HIGH LOW 18F (BF,F,S) M Hammond 9-11-9	J Clarkson (7)
3	12-0	ABLE PLAYER 7F (D,F,G,S) K Drewry 10-11-7	K Drewry (7)
4	-104	EDWARD SEYMOUR 31 (D,F,S) W Jenks 10-11-5	A Wadlow (7)
5	P0-1	MY HARVINSKI 7 (D,F,G) I Jones 7-10-12	Miss E J Jones (7)
6	5-54	RAVEN'S ROOST 15 (G,F) G E Jones 6-10-10	S Durack (7)
7	P3-2	FAME AND FANTASY 33 (F) N Chance 6-10-3	R Thornton (3)
8	-PP0	ROYAL SILVER 15 E Preece 6-10-0	J Goldstein (7)

11-4 Lord Nitrogen, 3-1 High Low, 4-1 My Harvinski, 9-2 Fame And Fantasy, 7-1 Edward Seymour, 8-1 Able Player, 10-1 Raven's Roost, 25-1 Royal Silver.

3.10 COMBERMERE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,355: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1	1F-1	POND HOUSE 12 (CD,F,G) M Pipe 8-12-0	A P McCoy
2	123-	LANDSKER MISSILE 105 (BF,F) Mrs Evans 8-11-2	Mr E Williams
3	5-11	WISE ADVICE 21 (D,F) M Hammond 7-11-2	R Garritty
4	5212	BRAMBLEBERRY 4 (BF,G,S) Mrs S Smith 8-10-13	R Guest
5	0-42	CRAFTY CHAPLAIN 21 (D,F,G,S) D McCain 11-10-5	T Jenks

6-4 Wise Advice, 5-2 Pond House, 3-1 Brambleberry, 7-1 Crafty Chaplain, 8-1 Landsker Missile.

3.40 EQE INTERNATIONAL MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,306: 2m 4f) (8)

1	000-	CHIEF OF KHORASSAN 126 S Kettlewell 5-11-5	G Lee (3)
2	/RP-	INTEABADUN 82P M Mullineaux 5-11-5	Mr S Prior (7)
3	P	PAXTONS TOWER 21 N Chance 6-11-5	P Ryan (7)
4	434-	KHALIKHOUM 77 Sir J Barlow Bt 4-11-2	C Maude
5	6	THENORTHERNPLAYBOY 15 T Wall 4-11-2	S Wynne
6	00-0	WHOTHEHELLISHARRY 8 P Dalton 4-11-2	Mr R Thornton (3)
7	44P	ANNIE'S KITCHEN 14 (B) M Sowersby 4-10-11	D Parker (3)
8	03	RAW DEAL 15 B Preece 4-10-11	Gary Lyons

7-4 Khalikhoum, 5-2 Raw Deal, 6-1 Chief Of Khorassan, 7-1 Whothehellisharry, Annie's Kitchen, 10-1 Paxtons Tower, 16-1 Thenorthernplayboy, 20-1 Inteabadun.

4.10 LORRAINE READER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,469: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1	P-21	KING OF SHADOWS 15 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 10-11-10	Gary Lyons
2	14-2	KINLOGH GALE 12 (B,F) Mrs M Evans 9-11-6	Mr E Williams
3	60-2	PAPARAZZO 71 G M Moore 6-11-6	Mr R Thornton (3)
4	3-21	FURIETTO 29 (D,F,G) M Hammond 7-11-6	R Garritty
5	51-2	BIT OF A DREAM 63 (G) Mrs S Smith 7-11-4	R Guest
6	P2U0	WALLS COURT 8 (D,F,G) J Birkett 10-11-3	A Dobbin
7	54-0	MOZEMO 66 (S) M Pipe 10-10-6	C Maude
8	/6-0	CRIMINAL RECORD 14 (F) P Bradley 7-10-1	S Wynne

9-4 Bit Of A Dream, 7-2 King Of Shadows, 9-2 Paparazzo, 11-2 Furietto, 6-1 Walls Court, 10-1 Mozemo, 16-1 Kinlogh Gale, 33-1 Criminal Record.

4.40 SHOWTIME NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,584: 2m 1f) (5)

1	1321	TOTALLY YOURS 12 (B,D,F,G) M Pipe 4-11-10	C Maude
2	4371	EUPHORIC ILLUSION 8 (F) Mrs S Smith 6-11-7	R Guest
3	P-01	POWERFUL SPIRIT 7 (V,F) J O'Shea 5-11-0	Michael Brennan (3)
4	-202	FOLLOW DE CALL 15 D McCain 7-10-0	A Egan (7)
5	2-32	DANE ROSE 7 (F,G) M Sheppard 11-10-0	Mr R Thornton (3)

6-4 Euphoric Illusion, 7-4 Totally Yours, 9-2 Powerful Spirit, 8-1 Follow De Call, 16-1 Dane Rose.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 24 winners from 83 runners, 28.9%; M Hammond, 3 from 12, 25.0%; C Mann, 4 from 18, 22.2%; R Hollinshead, 5 from 26, 19.2%; P Bradley, 3 from 18, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: Mr R Bevis, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%; A P McCoy, 8 from 41, 19.5%; R Garritty, 4 from 24, 16.7%; A Dobbin, 4 from 26, 15.4%; L Wyer, 3 from 25, 12.0%.

NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER

5.50 Manileno. 6.20 Landlord. 6.50 Galatasori Jane. 7.20 Galloping Guns. 7.50 Caspian Beluga. 8.20 Commanche Creek.

GOING: GOOD SIS

5.50 AUGUST EVENING JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,201: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

1	3	FIRST MAN 14 B Llewellyn 10-10	Guy Lewis (3)
2	3	GOING FOR BROKE 14 C Mann 10-10	R Dunwoody
3		KHAYAL 47F P Murphy 10-10	J R Kavanagh
4		MANILENO 24F M Pipe 10-10	A P McCoy
5	U	SOUTHERN CHIEF 14 W G M Turner 10-10	J Power (7)
6	5	SOVEREIGN 15 M Muggeridge 10-5	S Curran

10-11 Manileno, 9-4 Going For Broke, 4-1 Khayal, 20-1 others.

6.20 MIDSUMMER HURDLE (£2,232: 2m 6f) (10)

1	-2P0	CROCKNAMOHILL 7 (B) K Bridgwater 6-11-5	B Powell
2	-000	HEADING NORTH 38 D Carter 6-11-5	G Hogan (3)
3	D-33	LANDLORD 24F (B) P Bowen 5-11-5	W Marston
4	42-	NATURES GENTLEMAN 118P P Hobbs 6-11-5	R Dunwoody
5	0/P-	PEARLA DUBH 106 (F) R Baker 8-11-5	V Slattery
6	06P-	THIRTY BELOW 140 M Chapman 8-11-5	W Worthington
7	5435	DISTANT STORM 7 B Llewellyn 4-11-2	D J Burchell
8	431-	DONNRUA 97P (S) F Jordan 6-11-0	A P McCoy
9	4-6	FLORAL REEF 49 N Henderson 6-11-0	M A Fitzgerald
10	P-20	MEDIAS MAID 12 (F) C Barwell 7-11-0	P Henley (3)

11-4 Landlord, 3-1 Natures Gentleman, 7-2 Donnrua, 5-1 Floral Reef, 7-1 Distant Storm, 12-1 Crocknamohill, 16-1 Thirty Below, 20-1 others.

6.50 A J BLACKLER RENAULT NOVICES CHASE (£2,833: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1	2-05	CARDAN 14 R Frost 11-10-12	R Bellamy
2	3321	HACKETTS CROSS 15 (F,G) P Eccles 9-10-12	A Thornton
3	5/42	NEW STATESMAN 29 (F) P Rucheris 9-10-12	M A Fitzgerald
4	/4F3	RELKOM 7 (F) H Manners 10-10-12	S Curran
5	6-PP	RUSTIC FLIGHT 12 L Waring 10-10-12	M Griffiths (7)
6	-F06	THEFIELDSOFATHENRY 25 (F) A Barrow 7-10-12	Mr O McPhail (7)
7	-P54	HEMERO 5 R Buckler 5-10-8	B Powell
8	11-F	GALATASORI JANE 12 (BF,F,G) P Nicholls 7-10-7	A P McCoy
9	25-0	WALK IN THE WOODS 12 (F,S) D Turner 10-10-7	R Greene

4-5 Galatasori Jane, 7-2 Hacketts Cross, 5-1 New Statesman, 8-1 Relkom, 10-1 others.

7.20 JERZEES AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,861: 2m 1f) (8)

1	11-2	THEME ARENA 8 (V,BF,D,F) M Pipe 4-11-10	G Elliott (5)
2	00-2	SAM ROCKETT 14 (D,F) Guy Kelleway 4-11-8	S Durack (7)
3	/34-	CAPTAIN MARMALADE 7F D Thom 8-10-12	J Tizzard (7)
4	/FP-	SWEETLY DISPOSED 168 C Jones 9-10-11	Miss A Dudley (7)
5	P1-2	KARICLEIGH BOY 14 (F,S) R Frost 9-10-1	A Holdsworth (7)
6	6001	GALLOPING GUNS 7 (F) B Llewellyn 5-10-0	Miss E J Jones (7)
7	40F-	POCONO KNIGHT 183 C Jones 7-10-0	Miss B Small (7)
8	30-P	AGAINST THE CLOCK 5F (B) P Bowen 5-10-0	G Skone (7)

9-4 Theme Arena, 3-1 Karicleigh Boy, 7-2 Sam Rockett, Galloping Guns, 13-2 Captain Marmalade, 20-1 Sweetly Disposed, 25-1 others.

7.50 NIGHT IS YOUNG HANDICAP CHASE (£2,792: 2m 110yd) (7)

1	F/1-	CASPIAN BELUGA 413 (CD,F) S Knight 9-11-10	G Upton
2	-533	HALHAM TARN 12 (D,S) H Manners 7-11-5	S Curran
3	42-0	STAPLEFORD LADY 12 (CD,F) J S Moore 9-11-1	W McFarland
4	-634	RUPPLES 14 (D,F,G) M Chapman 10-10-12	W Worthington
5	P-34	DAWN CHANCE 12 (B,D,F,S) R Hodges 11-10-10	R Dunwoody
6	6544	NORTHERN OPTIMIST 14 (D,F,G) B Llewellyn 9-10-9	B Powell
7	4P-2	TANGO'S DELIGHT 12 (G) R Baker 9-10-7	V Slattery

3-1 Caspian Beluga, 4-1 Stapleford Lady, 9-2 Rupples, 5-1 Halham Tarn, Dawn Chance, 7-1 Tango's Delight, 14-1 Northern Optimist.

8.20 BIRDIE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,696: 2m 6f) (4)

1	U1/1	ROYAL EXPRESSION 21 (D,F,G) F Jordan 5-11-10	R Dunwoody
2	1611	COMMANCHE CREEK 12 (B,CD,F,S) M Pipe 7-10-12	A P McCoy
3	1-24	ON MY TOES 12 (F,G) R Frost 6-10-0	Mr A Holdsworth
4	45P-	COEUR BATTANT 321 (F) R Baker 7-10-0	V Slattery

4-9 Commanche Creek, 5-2 Royal Expression, 6-1 On My Toes, 25-1 Coeur Battant.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 4 winners from 9 runners, 44.4%; P Hobbs, 46 from 151, 30.5%; M Pipe, 89 from 324, 27.5%; P Nicholls, 32 from 126, 25.4%; C Mann, 4 from 22, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 56 winners from 175 rides, 32%; A P McCoy, 44 from 143, 30.8%; A Thornton, 13 from 71, 18.3%; M A Fitzgerald, 17 from 98, 17.3%. Only qualifiers

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

TITLE SPONSOR
Mees Pierson

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1997 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
15 AUG	ALEXANDER & PARTNERS	KINGS ACRE	24
15 AUG	BATEN PLC	GORING & STREATLEY	48
15 AUG	BOYD & LLOYD OFFICE SUPPLIES LTD	TRACY PARK	35
15 AUG	CITY FINANCIAL PARTNERS LTD	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	32
15 AUG	DERRY LANDSCAPES & GARDEN DESIGN	FOREST PARK	42
15 AUG	EPSOM MEDICAL SERVICES	RAC COUNTRY CLUB	15
15 AUG	M H S UK	DALMAHOY	120
15 AUG	NAT WEST BANK OXFORDSHIRE CBC	FRILFORD HEATH	36
16 AUG	BRITISH MIDLAND	BLUE MOUNTAIN	36
17 AUG	ADMIRAL INSURANCE	GOWER	40
17 AUG	BARWELL ENTERPRISES	MURRAYSHALL	40
18 AUG	COOPERS & LYBRAND	MOLLINGTON	68
18 AUG	FRANKLIN WILLIAMS & FOY/BDO STOY HAYWARD	HANBURY MANOR	48
19 AUG	DANIEL SMITH	COPTHORNE	18
19 AUG	EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD	LADYBANK	35
19 AUG	MARKS & SPENCER PLC	DENHAM	40
19 AUG	PERPLAS	BURNLEY	20
19 AUG	PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS PERSONNEL LTD	BRAMSTON	25
20 AUG	APOLLO HOME ENTERTAINMENT	ST GEORGES HILL	36
20 AUG	BURT & WALKERS	WOODSOME HALL	36
20 AUG	CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY	TAYMOUTH CASTLE	148
20 AUG	LOGMOOR LTD	KINGS NORTON	24
21 AUG	BARCLAYCARD	STAVERTON PARK	30
21 AUG	CHESS COMMUNICATIONS	CHART HILLS	18
21 AUG	PARK NELSON	SUNNINGDALE	40
22 AUG	ABLE INSTRUMENTS & CONTROLS LTD	LETHAM GRANGE	58
22 AUG	CEF WIGAN	BOLTON OLD LINKS	180
22 AUG	DEVONPORT MANAGEMENT LIMITED	CHINA FLEET	60
22 AUG	MONKLANDS & BELLSHILL HOSPITALS NHS TRUST	AIRDRIE	30
22 AUG	NORTHERN GLASS	GARDEN PARK	24
22 AUG	POWER TESTING LIMITED	THE WARREN	32
22 AUG	SUMMIT MEDICAL	LYNEHAM	14
22 AUG	TELFORD POLICE GOLF SOCIETY	LILLESHALL HALL	104
22 AUG	THE ST JAMES PARTNERSHIP	LANGLAND BAY	48

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National Final shown on
Sky sports

STRATFORD

THUNDERER

2.20 Wilkins. 2.50 Legal Artist. 3.20 Walter's Dream. 3.50 Kedwick. 4.20 Blair Castle. 4.55 Above The Cut. 5.25 Fakir D'Avrilly.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.20 RICHARDSONS BROMFORD GATE CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,248: 2m 6f 110yd) (6 runners)

1	51-6	FLUIDITY 21 (C,F) I Williams 9-11-2	B Powell
2	-P12	WILKINS 12 (CD,F,G) R O'Sullivan 8-11-2	M A Fitzgerald
3	1/04	CHICAGO'S BEST 5 (B,C,F,G) K Comerford 10-10-13	A Dowling (7)
4	11-3	JENZSOPH 12 (B,C,D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 6-10-11	G Tormey
5	1P-6	TULLYKYNE BELLS 12 (F) D Wintle 8-10-10	W Marston
6	60-5	CIRCUS COLOURS 7 (F) J Jenkins 7-10-7	A Maguire

15-8 Wilkins, 9-4 Jenzsoph, 7-2 Circus Colours, 9-2 Fluidity, 8-1 Chicago's Best, 16-1 Tullykyne Bells.

2.50 STAR SITE LEISURE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,565: 3m) (6)

1	P-40	PAGE ROYALE 35 (G) C Mann 7-11-10	R Dunwoody
2	12-5	CALL ME ALBI 35 (B,F) Mrs L Richards 6-11-2	M Richards
3	3-41	LEGAL ARTIST 21 (CD,F,G) Miss C Johnsey 7-11-0	D Gallagher
4	2P4-	MISTER GEBO 77 (D,F,G) Miss C Dyson 12-10-13	Miss C Dyson
5	3453	FATHER DOWLING 21 (V,G) G Balding 10-10-9	A Maguire
6	52-3	COASTING 50 (G,S) H Haynes 11-10-9	M A Fitzgerald

2-1 Legal Artist, 11-4 Father Dowling, 5-1 Coasting, 6-1 Call Me Albi, 8-1 Page Royale, Mister Gebo.

3.20 FORT SHOPPING PARK NOVICES HURDLE (£2,726: 2m 6f 110yd) (5)

1	-112	IFFEEE 25 (BF,D,F,G,S) P Bowen 10-11-4	R Johnson
2	6-32	ALPHA LEATHER 12 L Grassick 6-10-12	A Maguire
3	26/3	WALTER'S DREAM 48 N Henderson 7-10-12	M A Fitzgerald
4	/P0-	NERO'S GEM 243 C Jackson 8-10-7	J Culloty
5	00-P	MISS BLUES SINGER 38 A Chamberlain 4-10-4	B Powell

10-11 Iffeee, 13-8 Walter's Dream, 5-1 Alpha Leather, 33-1 Nero's Gem, Miss Blues Singer.

3.50 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON FOODS MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £2,262: 2m 110yd) (9)

1	0/3-	KEDWICK 16F (V) P Hedger 8-11-5	M Richards
2	40-	MR MONTAGUE 13F T Donnelly 5-11-5	G Bradley
3	P/	VAPORIZE 13F D Hyde 5-11-5	A Bates (5)
4		PENYGARN GUV'NOR 15F J Bradley 4-11-2	R Johnson
5		PRIDE OF KASHMIR 316F P Hobbs 4-11-2	G Tormey
6	0	SWEET CISEAUX 7 B Llewellyn 4-11-2	J Culloty
7		THOR'S PHANTOM 67F M Usher 4-11-2	W McFarland
8		MARGI BOO 511F M Sheppard 4-10-11	R Farrant
9	0	MRS KEEN 48 J R Best 4-10-11	Mr P O'Keeffe (7)

6-5 Kedwick, 5-2 Pride Of Kashmir, 11-2 Mr Montague, 7-1 Sweet Ciseaux, 14-1 Thor's Phantom, 16-1 Penygarn Guv'nor, Margi Boo, 20-1 others.

4.20 MICHAEL POWLES-ROLLS ROYCE LEICESTER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,418: 2m 1f 110yd) (4)

1	FU2-	NEWLANDS-GENERAL 122 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 11-12-0	Mr J Tizzard (7)
2	-111	BLAIR CASTLE 14 (CD,F,G) G Balding 6-11-9	A Maguire
3	13/6	INDIAN RUN 12 (D,G,S) R Hodges 8-10-0	T Dascombe (3)
4	32-P	FLYING ZIAD 21 (D,F,G,S) H Manners 14-10-0	A Dowling (7)

4-6 Blair Castle, 6-4 Newlands-General, 16-1 Indian Run, 25-1 Flying Ziad.

4.55 TARMAC CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,909: 2m 110yd) (7)

1	221-	ABOVE THE CUT 85 (D,F,G) C Morlock 5-12-0	M Handley (5)
2	2-2F	COOLEY'S VALVE 5 (D,F) Mrs S Williams 9-11-11	Sophie Mitchell
3	6U-4	PAIR OF JACKS 71 (CD,F,G) P Hobbs 7-10-13	D J Kavanagh
4	P463	TOUCH SILVER 7 (D,S) H Manners 7-10-8	A Dowling (5)
5	12-3	HEVER GOLF DIAMOND 8 (B,D,F,G) J R Best 4-10-8	L Aspell
6	33-U	ALMAPA 12 (F) R Hodges 5-10-4	J Harris (5)
7	0524	NIGHT TIME 12 (CD,F,G) A Hobbs 5-10-1	G Shenkin (5)

9-4 Cooley's Valve, 3-1 Above The Cut, 5-1 Pair Of Jacks, 6-1 Hever Golf Diamond, 7-1 Almapa, 8-1 Touch Silver, 14-1 Night Time.

5.25 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON FOODS MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £2,262: 2m 110yd) (9)

1	4-3	ALAFLAK 24F W Ham 6-11-5	R Farrant
2	331-	LOSLOMOS 146P (G) G Balding 5-11-5	B Fenton
3	0-00	SOU SOU WESTERLY 12 C Weedon 6-11-5	M Richards
4		BULLFINCH 86F R Phillips 4-11-2	J Osborne
5		EAGLE CANYON 30F F Jordan 4-11-2	R Supple
6	602-	ERIC'S BETT 49F P Murphy 4-11-2	L Aspell (3)
7		FAKIR D'AVRILLY 301F C Mann 4-11-2	A Maguire
8		ISSEY WIZZY J Jenkins 6-11-0	D Yellowlees (7)
9	03	RETURN TO BRIGHTON 7 J Bradley 5-11-0	R Johnson

3-1 Eric's Bett, 4-1 Alaflak, 5-1 Eagle Canyon, 6-1 Loslomos, Bullfinch, 8-1 Fakir D'Avrilly, 10-1 Return To Brighton, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Hobbs, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42.9%; P Nicholls, 7 from 23, 30.4%; P Bowen, 7 from 25, 28.0%; C Mann, 3 from 12, 25.0%; B Llewellyn, 5 from 24, 20.8%.

JOCKEYS: A Maguire, 25 winners from 100 rides, 25.0%; R Dunwoody, 21 from 100, 21.0%; R Johnson, 11 from 54, 20.4%; R Farrant, 6 from 32, 18.8%; J Osborne, 10 from 59, 16.9%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Guaranteed. 7.30 Phoenix Princess. 8.00 Tallulah Belle. 8.30 Only For Gold. 9.00 Juicy Ting. 9.30 Brynkir.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

7.00 E B F STARFISH MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,060: 7f) (12 runners)

SKY

1	00	FAIR GAME 31 J Dunlop 9-0	B Doyle 11
2	02	GUARANTEED 13 B Hills 9-0	D Holland 12
3	00	IMBACKAGAIN 50 P Haslam 9-0	A Culhane 10
4	0	KING'S HUSSAR 31 P Cole 9-0	M Rimmer 9
5		MAGIC FALLS M Polglase 9-0	J Tate 3
6	00	PRODIGAL SON 15 R Williams 9-0	- 1
7	42	PROMPT DELIVERY 13 M Stoute 9-0	K Darley 7
8	6	SMART VENTURE 101 R Hollinshead 9-0	D Griffiths (3) 5
9	0	TAUREAN 19 N Graham 9-0	S Sanders 8
10	4430	THE GROVELLER 24 P Evans 9-0	J F Egan 6
11		ZERO THREE FIFTEEN M Meade 9-0	R Havlin (3) 2
12	02	BLUE ZOLA 10 M Bell 8-9	R Mullen (5) 4

2-1 Prompt Delivery, 7-2 Guaranteed, 5-1 Blue Zola, King's Hussar, 9-1 others.

7.30 JUDYS BIRTHDAY MILE HANDICAP (£2,277: 1m 100yd) (13)

SKY

1	2100	PEOPLE DIRECT 13 (CD) N Littmoden 4-9-11	J F Egan 10
2	0-00	AIRBORNE HARRIS 4 A Bailey 4-9-9	D Wright 6
3	1135	SOOTY TERN 7 (D,F,G,S) J Bradley 10-9-7	J Fortune 5
4	045/	CLEMENCY 1076 M Tate 5-9-7	Victoria Appleby (7) 2
5	0256	LEGAL ISSUE 11 (F,G,S) W Haigh 5-9-5	A Culhane 12
6	0202	FAILED TO HIT 22 (B,F) N Littmoden 4-9-4	S Whitworth 9
7	1344	DREAM CARRIER 22 (C,D,F,G) R Peacock 9-9-3	S Sanders 3
8	-001	COLINS CHOICE 22 (CD) J Spearing 3-9-3	P Fessey (3) 4
9	3613	PHOENIX PRINCESS 26 (D) B McMahon 3-9-1	L Newton 1
10	0656	LOCH STYLE 12 (CD,F) R Hollinshead 4-8-12	F Lynch 13
11	0850	SANDMOOR DENIM 43 (CD,F,G,S) S Bowring 10-8-6	S Webster 7
12	6220	SILVER HARROW 13 (F) A Newcombe 4-8-4	A Mackay 11
13	0206	BACKHANDER 13 (B) R Phillips 5-8-4	R Mullen (5) 8

100-30 Silver Harrow, 6-1 Colins Choice, 7-1 Sandmoor Denim, 10-1 others.

8.00 CHEMIQUE ADHESIVES & SEALANTS HANDICAP (£3,070: 1m 1f 79yd) (10)

SKY

1	1000	TALLULAH BELLE 16 (CD,F) N Littmoden 4-10-0	S Whitworth 10
2	5026	LAW DANCER 36 (CD) T Mills 4-9-5	J Fortune 3
3	1630	TONNERRE 10 (S) B McMahon 5-9-4	L Newton 7
4	3-00	PARSA 97 (BF,F) J Dunlop 4-9-3	K Darley 8
5	6133	CHEROKEE FLIGHT 3 (CD,F) S Mellor 3-9-1	M Wigham 5
6	0220	WILDFIRE 50 (BF,S) R Akehurst 6-8-12	S Sanders 6
7	0504	MAJOR MOUSE 26 (F) W Haigh 9-8-11	A Culhane 2
8	0010	GRAND HOTEL 45 (B,CD) P Harris 3-8-5	D Holland 9
9	4000	MY GIRL LUCY 8 (B) P Mitchell 3-7-13	J F Egan 4
10	-050	SAINT AMIGO 3 (S) B Baugh 5-7-10	Iona Wands (5) 1

3-1 Cherokee Flight, 9-2 Tonnerre, 11-2 Law Dancer, 6-1 Wildfire, 7-1 others.

8.30 THE WEATHERBYS DASH CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £18,555: 6f) (13)

SKY

1	11	ONLY FOR GOLD 72 (F,S) J Berry 9-7	K Darley 9
2	22	BLUE KITE 100 (BF) N Littmoden 8-11	J Weaver 12
3	0213	CELTIC COMFORT 8 (D,G) P Haslam 8-11	L Charnock 4
4	555	DANCING RIO 17 P Haslam 8-11	J Fortune 3
5	0321	GREENBROOK 42 (S) W G M Turner 8-11	D Sweeney 2
6	0000	HEY UP MATE 14 J Berry 8-11	P Fessey 7
7	0660	RA RA RASPUTIN 17 B McMahon 8-11	S Sanders 10
8	63	RIO 12 J Berry 8-11	T E Durcan 13
9	055	TOM DOUGAL 47 C Smith 8-11	J Tate 6
10	1564	BLUSHING VICTORIA 7 (F) M Meade 8-10	R Havlin 5
11	0322	HEAVENLY ABSTONE 13 (V,F,S) P Evans 8-10	J F Egan 1
12	4	KUSTOM KIT KATE 21 S Bowring 8-6	C Teague 8
13	50	SAMPOWER LADY 18 W Musson 8-6	D R McCabe 11

5-4 Only For Gold, 7-1 Celtic Comfort, 15-2 Rio, 8-1 Blue Kite, 12-1 others.

9.00 SELLING STAKES (£1,985: 1m 1f) (10)

1	3-00	RED PHANTOM 171J (CD) S Mellor 5-9-4	M Wigham 6
2	00-0	ZAHAALIE 121 J Pickering 5-9-4	J Fowle (7) 10
3	05	PEARL SILK 9 T Hall 4-8-13	T G McLaughlin 2
4	-006	QUALITAIR BEAUTY 22 Miss L Siddall 4-8-13	D McKeown 3
5	5000	SHE'S SIMPLY GREAT 5 J J O'Neill 4-8-13	A Culhane 8
6	-000	JUICY TING 24 P Haslam 3-8-11	J Fortune 9
7		PWLLGLAS S C Williams 3-8-11	K Darley 1
8	5034	SILVER BUTTON 6 (B) S Bowring 3-8-11	C Teague (3) 4
9	506	GREENACRES GODDESS 12 T Wall 3-8-6	N Carlisle 5
10	-300	KAYZEE 63 D Burchell 3-8-6	K Sked (5) 7

9-4 Red Phantom, 5-1 Kayzee, 6-1 Silver Button, 7-1 Juicy Ting, 10-1 others.

9.30 DOLPHIN HANDICAP (£2,008: 1m 4f) (6)

1	4440	SARBARON 14 P Harris 3-10-0	M Batchelor 6
2	0242	POINTE FINE 10 J Hills 3-9-9	Sam Dickerson (7) 5
3	6244	CEANOTHUS 7 (BF) W Haggas 3-9-5	D Williams (3) 4
4	0-00	BRYNKIR 93 D Murray Smith 3-9-2	D McGaffin 1
5	-000	MEADOW BLUE 17 Miss L Siddall 4-8-8	T Siddall 2
6	4053	BOLD SAINT 6 (B) P Harris 3-8-3	P Bradley (5) 3

7-4 Pointe Fine, 3-1 Sarbaron, 7-2 Ceanothus, 9-2 Bold Saint, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Williams, 3 winners from 13 runners, 23.1%; M Bell, 13 from 58, 22.4%; M Meade, 6 from 27, 22.2%; W Haigh, 5 from 26, 19.2%; W Haggas, 7 from 37, 18.9%; M Stoute, 3 from 16, 18.8%.

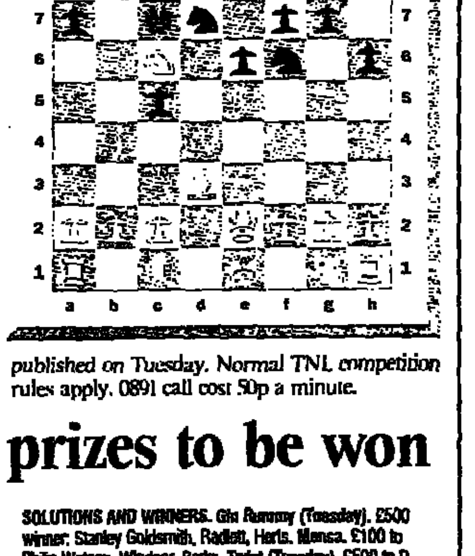
JOCKEYS: K Darley, 27 winners from 112 rides, 24.1%; J Weaver, 58 from 278, 20.9%; D Sweeney, 11 from 57, 19.3%; M Rimmer, 6 from 34, 17.6%; K Sked, 3 from 18, 16.7%; B Doyle, 11 from 77, 14.3%.

Final day of *The Times* Challenge of the Mind competition with £10,000 worth of prizes to be won. Over the past two weeks the competition, to coincide with the first Mind Sports Olympiad, has set a number of puzzles to get you thinking. For further details of the Mind Sports Olympiad, at the Royal Festival Hall, London, from Monday to Sunday August 18 to 24, and how to enter, call **0171-703 2828**.

£500 CHESS PROBLEM by Raymond Keene

Today's problem has been set by our own Chess correspondent, Raymond Keene. The object of chess is checkmate and any amount of material can be given up to achieve this end. The position shown in the diagram is very early in a variation of the opening in which Garry Kasparov recently lost to the IBM computer Deep Blue. White can force a quick win and Deep Blue would solve this in about one millionth of a second. Black has just moved his queen from d8 to c7. What should White now play?

a) Bishop to b5 to defend the knight on c6
b) Bishop to g6 offering a sacrifice of a bishop
c) Queen takes pawn on e6 check, offering a sacrifice of the queen.



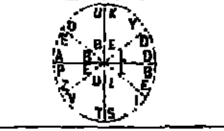
Call **0891 102 724** (ex UK +44 990 200 618) *before midnight tomorrow with your answer, a, b or c.* The winner will get £500 and 50 runners-up will receive a copy of Ray Keene's *Times Winning Chess. Winners will be chosen at random from all* correct entries received and the answer will be *published on Tuesday.* Normal TNL competition rules apply. 0891 call cost 50p a minute.

£10,000 worth of prizes to be won

There's £100 to be won with this ten-minute Mensa teaser. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tomorrow. **Call 0891 102 725** (ex UK +44 990 200 619). 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Readers who get two or three of today's Mensa puzzles correct will receive a certificate and a Mensa information pack which includes a home IQ assessment test.

TEN MINUTE MENSA PROBLEM

Q1. Take one letter from each segment to form the name of a flower? What is the flower?



Q2. If Alan gives Brenda five pounds and fifty pence they will both have the same amount of money. If Brenda gives Alan one pound and fifty pence, Alan will have twice as much as Brenda.

What did they have at the start?

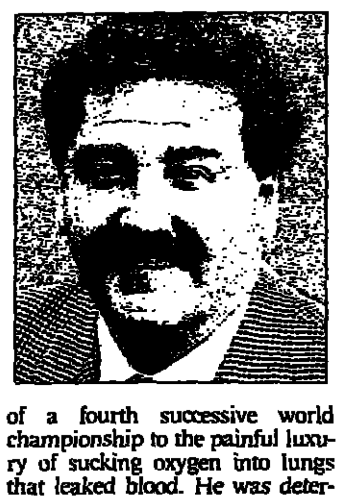
Q3. David is to 1000 as Laurence is to ?

SOLUTIONS AND WINNERS. Gin Rummy (Tuesday). £500 winner: Stanley Goldsmith, Radlett, Herts. Mensa. £100 to Philip Watson, Windsor, Berks. Twixt (Tuesday). £500 to D Baston, Whiteparish, Salisbury. Mensa. £100 to Roger Thomas, Barrow Upon Humber, South Humberside. Awari (Wednesday). *The maximum number of seeds are captured by starting sowing from cup 3. After the move there are three seeds in cup 10, three in cup 9, two in cup 8 and three in cup 7. These are all captured for a total of 11 seeds. Starting from cup 6 captures no seeds at all and starting from cup 5 captures only eight seeds.* £500 to Mrs P Fraiser, Cumnor, Oxford. Mensa. We apologise for repeating the problem featured on Tuesday. Draughts (Thursday). White should play b) h2-g3. Then Black must capture h4-f2. Now White plays d4-e5 and again Black must capture f6-d4. Now White captures e3-c5. Again Black must reply b6-d4. Finally White captures two men with g1-c5. Black is now forced to give up his last man by playing a7-b6. £500 to N Greenall of Wigton, Cumbria. Mensa. 1 Bottle, Lace, Span. 2 Clock 3 201 (add Roman numerals. £100 to Florence van Rooyen, Boksburg, South Africa. Bridge (Friday). The correct line is b) to continue with the ace of clubs, *discarding the ace of diamonds from the North hand;* then he can lead the queen of diamonds and continue diamonds until the opponents win the king. After that he can always get to the South hand with the ace of spades to make the remaining diamonds. Mensa. 1 Deadlock. 2 29 — the two outer numbers multiplied = centre numbers. 3 Canberra.

Crippled former world champion returns at helm of his own 500cc grand prix motorcycle team

Rainey battles demons within

MICHAEL CALVIN



The motorcycle was on the edge of adhesion, the verge of disaster. Wayne Rainey could feel it twitching beneath him as he opened the *throttle through his* favourite left-hand corner. He heard his own heartbeat, *detected a delicious* dryness in his throat. He saw everything in slow motion. His brain told him he was in control, but his body reminded him he was *in a wheelchair.* He had been ambushed by his imagination. They eventually *found him* beside the deserted track, weeping quietly.

Rainey will confront the demons once again this weekend as manager of his own 500cc team at the British Grand Prix at Donington Park. *The referred pain he* still endures, nearly four years after the accident that snapped his spine, is merely the physical manifestation of the phantoms of his past.

He has become inured to the *indignities of denial* and depression, but his last flashback, at Phillip Island in *Australia* earlier in the year, surprised him. "I thought I'd grown out of it, but it all came back to me, suddenly," he explained. "Trying to tame a 500cc *bike is a bizarre experience, one* like no other, and emotionally I was back on one that afternoon. I was actually watching Mick Doohan, but I'd convinced myself it *was me in his place.* I tell you, being able to block out the things that made me happy in my so-called first life is a great gift."

> **'At Misano, I hit the ground and felt nothing'**

There is a suitably *wistful tone to his voice,* because he has undergone the catharsis of writing an unflinchingly honest autobiography, which is being launched at the Derbyshire circuit tonight. His soothing Californian accent belies the contradictions of *his inner struggle. His eyes are* alive, but heavily lined. His hands are expressive, but sore and cracked because of the side-effects of drugs taken to control involuntary body *spasms.*

Rainey was reborn at 1.29pm at *Misano in Italy on September 5,* 1993, when he was paralysed during a gruesome *pas de deux* with his Yahama across a ribbed, gravel trap. In that fateful instant, his focus changed from the pursuit of a fourth successive world championship to the painful luxury of sucking oxygen into lungs that leaked blood. He was determined not to die.

"Hey, I was on the gas, I was in the lead," he told the world from his hospital bed, through his wife, Shae. "*What could be a better way* to go out?" He persuaded her to forge *his handwriting* and *fax the* team for qualifying times. He would return, like a leather-clad McArthur. He would build a better life for himself. It is only *now that he can smile ruefully at* the memory of such *naïveté.* "At the beginning, I thought I was fooling everyone," he said. "The only person I was fooling was myself.

"You learn most in the deepest valleys. I was consumed by racing and, when I first got hurt, all I could think about was what *I could not do. Now I'm more* fulfilled. I know what I can do. I've learned through being disabled that it is possible to be a better person. I take as much as I can from each day. There are a lot of kids out there, who get hurt *through no fault of their own.* They need people like me, who can tell them it is OK to be in a wheelchair. Life does go on."

He was a watchword for perfection in his sport. He was its dominant figure, an intense character *who found speed an intellec*tual challenge. The parallels with Ayrton Senna, who was one of the first to contact him in hospital, were uncanny. Each was apparently insulated by unprecedented excellence. The impact of Rainey's accident *on the motorcycle com*munity was identical to that of Senna's death on the Formula One circus eight months later. The unthinkable had occurred, live, on Sunday afternoon television.

"I always knew it could happen *to me,*" Rainey *insisted.* "Every rider thinks about it. The moment he falls off his bike and he's sliding along the ground, he's thinking about living. Safety is a No 1 *concern, but if you want* to win, you must put yourself in a position of risk. As my career went on, I was cornered. I didn't want second place, but I didn't want to hurt myself. There's not a lot of room for compromise."

Motorcycling is *notorious* for devouring its own. Veteran riders have the world-weary air of gunfighters who fear they have defied fate once too often. Doohan, the present world champion, walks with a pronounced limp, the *legacy of an accident that almost* resulted in the amputation of his right leg. He has *minimal* movement in his right ankle and is resigned to being crippled with arthritis in middle age. He is a multimillionaire who has nothing *to prove, yet is considering joining* forces with Rainey next year.

Rainey understands a rider's obsessional nature better than most. "I've lost friends through racing, but people enjoy the thrill of pushing themselves to the *limit," he rationalised. "I loved the* unknown, the feeling of being on the edge. It's where you feel free, where you're happy and most confident. If you're not there, it is like walking with a crutch. It just doesn't feel right.

"*You don't want to be at the* point where you're almost crashing, but, without realising it, you're there all the time. There comes a moment where you're out of your seat and throwing it all away. That's when you realise what's going on. It's *strange,* but sometimes when you hit the ground you know you're going to be okay. At Misano, I hit the ground and felt nothing."

His instincts have *survived* incarceration in his wheelchair. The Formula One team owner, Frank Williams, has been a constant source of psychological support, urging him to "think about your body all the time". His former *rival, Eddie Lawson, has built him* a hand-controlled 150mph go-kart and he has just taken delivery of a 70mph jet boat. Speed remains a tangible expression of individuality, the hidden casualty of paralysis.

"*People* always *say, don't look at* the chair, look at the person," Rainey reflected, "but I know that when people walk up to me, they see it, rather than me. I accept there's *nothing* I can do about that. I've almost forgotten to be self-*conscious. Sure, I miss my legs* — there are times I get mad that I'm in this chair — but I realise there is no place to hide."

Except, perhaps, in the labyrinth of his imagination. It doesn't take much stimulation. "I had an *out-of-body experience once,*" *he* said. "Suzuka, 1993. I was coming out of a corner and the bike was real loose, sliding sideways. I felt I was intimidating everyone. I was giggling and *laughing* and for about two-tenths of a second I was actually *looking down* on myself ..." He paused, and smiled self-consciously. It was evidently time to return to the real world.

CHRIS HARRIS

Rainey, once the racer supreme, holds court from his wheelchair as he and his team prepare to challenge for the British 500cc Grand Prix at Donington Park

Doohan, who enjoys the high profile granted to the reigning world champion, is considering joining Rainey next year

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CYCLING

Sciandri in form for World Cup

By Peter Bryan

TOMORROW could prove a day of revenge for Max *Sciandri, of Great Britain,* who was outmanoeuvred last year by Andrea Ferrigato, of Italy, in a two-man sprint for the line at the end of the Leeds round of the road race World Cup.

Both return for the Rochester International Classic, the *seventh round of this year's* ten-race series, which makes a *150-mile loop of Kent, taking* in the Romney Marshes.

Sciandri has been the country's most successful rider in the United Kingdom rounds of the World Cup series, winning in 1995. After a disappointing Tour de France, his form appears to be *improving.*

Chris Boardman is the only other Briton competing in a record entry of 152 and says that he has recovered from the *shoulder* injury that forced him to retire from the Tour de France. By Tour de France standards, the race is not hilly, but the decisive move could come during the final three laps of the five-mile *finishing* circuit at Rochester, which includes a one-mile climb over cobblestones.

The event has drawn most of Europe's top riders, including the world road race champion, Johan Museeuw, who is *also the World Cup-holder,* although he is at present outside of the world's top ten. Rolf Sorensen, of Denmark, riding for the Rabobank *team,* leads the competition by four points from Michele *Bartoli, with Marcus Zberg,* of Switzerland, trailing a further 88 points behind.

Thatcher's legacy alive and well as Chelsea take a swipe

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

FOOTBALLISM is the Thatcherism of the late Nineties. Football, you see, was the industry that missed the Thatcherite boat. In the former Prime Minister's heyday, football was the pariah sport *and, if the Iron One had* ambitions for football, they were to ban it forever as an action likely to cause a breach of the peace.

In the present football boom, however, we find Thatcherism alive and well. Money and selfishness are *gods, ludicrous salaries and* spiralling profits are the norm *and a veritable South Sea* bubble of expectation surrounds everything that football can do. In this naive world of sanctioned greed, it seems that anything in the world is possible.

Which brings us to the latest excitement from Chelsea. No, *not what would be earth*-shattering news — the signing of an Englishman — they have instead launched a scheme to reward the loyal ones at the expense of fair-weather and glamour-seeking supporters.

A *swipe-card system* used by Chelsea's 50,000 members (£27 a year for the privilege) will record attendances and the club will grade each game by its glamour potential, from Barnsley (10 points) to Manchester *United* (one point). The points total accumulated will allow high-scoring supporters to spend even more money, by giving them *priority for such things* as FA Cup Final tickets.

What's this? A membership scheme? Swiping your card at every visit? This is exactly what Lady Thatcher wanted — not to make money, but to *keep football people in their* place. This is Thatcher's dreaded membership scheme turning up in another guise — the very scheme that clubs such as Chelsea so loudly condemned as unworkable. Ah well. Thatcherism, footballism ... *these things tend* to end in tears.

'armless bandits

After the civil war in Albania, the football championship has begun again. *Just four teams* from four cities are involved, but the country is still not entirely safe. The other day, Flamurtari, of Valona, travelling by coach to a match in Tirana and were ambushed by armed bandits, who came on board demanding money. Then realisation hit the bandits. "Aren't you the champions from Flamurtari?" "We *are.*" The *bandits apologised* and stepped off the coach.

Super squabble

The Australian Rugby League-Super League row *rumbles on. The sport is split,* it seems irrevocably, between the Australian Rugby League and the *soi-disant* Super League. Attempts to bridge this terrible gap are foundering on the word "Super". At a recent meeting of the ARL, clubs were told that trying to market the name Super League "*would be like trying* to market salmonella pies", *(which are, I believe, some*thing of a delicacy over there). The Super League itself will make no clear indication as to whether or not the word "Super" is negotiable. Hyper League, perhaps?

No food bar

It gets to me every time. You walk up to Twickenham and you get your bag searched. What for? To see if you have a can of beer or a hip flask about your person. You pass through the gates and what do you see? A vast open-air bar. *This is not security. This is* rampant profiteering by means of physical intrusion.

They tried a similar system at the new home of Atlanta Braves, the modestly-named Turner Field, named after the Braves' *modest owner,* Ted Turner. People who go to American sports tend to do so with gaping holes in their stomachs and so Turner was able to charge a hefty price for the food concessions.

As part of the deal, he said *that he would ban supporters* from bringing their own food into the *stadium.* A kind of arms race developed: greater efforts at smuggling, greater force from the, as it were, customs and excise men — and ever greater prices for the food on sale in the stadium.

Items confiscated included mothers' milk for babes in *arms and sugar-free "cookies"* for diabetics. But the hungry folk of the United States won the day. Turner — who said that even he was astonished by the food prices — has backed down. You can once again bring your own peanuts and crackerjacks to the ball *game.*

Sorry. Your baby will have to use one of our licensed Breast Feeders
Breast Feeding
ATLANTA BRAVES

Heaven can wait

I am pleased to announce that the final of the *Church Times* annual cricket competition, *for teams of Anglican clergy,* will take place on September 4 at Southgate. *Bishop David* Sheppard will present the trophy in his year of retirement. The match will be between the dioceses of Chester *and Oxford; the Bishop* of Chester will be the twelfth man for his side. I wish them all a wonderful match and hope that the Borgia-esque *machinations* of the Jardine-like captain of the Vatican XI (in the past, regular opponents of mighty Tewin Irregulars) will not be repeated at Southgate.

☐ *The Nicolas Feuillatte Shane Warne Fizzometer stands at 20.*

TENNIS

Costa falls to flying Rusedski

By Our Sports Staff

TIM HENMAN returned to form and Greg Rusedski up*set the seedings to reach the* last eight of the Pilot Pen *International tournament* at New Haven, Connecticut on Thursday night.

Henman, who had been so uncertain whilst narrowly escaping against Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, earlier *in the event,* played *with* increasing assurance to over*come Brett Steven, of New* Zealand, 6-4, 6-4, while Rusedski was at his ferocious best in overcoming Albert Costa, of Spain. The British No 2 may break into the world's top 20 for the first time after a 6-3, 7-6 victory in which he produced 15 aces *and the fiercest commitment.*

One break of service helped to earn *him* the first set and after he immediately recovered his loss of service at the beginning of the second, the match went with service until *an enthralling tie-break.*

Henman's win has earned *him a match against Yevgeni* Kafelnikov, of Russia, the No 1 seed. Henman's timing off the ground was far better and although he rarely served and volleyed, he *rallied* effectively from the back of the court and often picked his moments to approach the net cleverly.

Henman also served with penetration with his first delivery, producing 13 aces, two of them in succession to finish the match. "Last week, I was rock bottom and I didn't play very well in my first *match here,*" *Henman said.* "However, I think that was a turning point."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Yeovil relish return to top-flight status

By Walter Gammie

WHILE Hereford United reluctantly start life in the Vauxhall Conference today *with a gentle-looking assign*ment against Welling United, Yeovil Town, among *the more* enthusiastic newcomers, kick off the season with the pick of the first-day matches against Stevenage Borough.

Yeovil, with decades of frustrated ambition behind them *and an abundant reservoir of* potential support, are the sort *of club for which the Confer*ence and its subsequent avenue to the Football League was created. Yet twice since being founder members in 1979, they have tumbled into the Isthmian League.

Now they are restored after a two-year absence, as Icis *League champions, under* the forceful leadership of Graham Roberts, who, at 38, is only now beginning to contemplate scaling down his playing commitments. Roberts has recruited Owen Pickard, the former Plymouth *Argyle and* Hereford United forward, from *Dorchester Town,* the *Dr* Martens League club, for £15,000 as replacement for Howard Forinton, who, with Jerry Gill, a defender, moved *to Birmingham City* for a combined total of £100,000.

In *Stevenage,* the 1996 champions, Yeovil will meet a side also filling in gaps left by *the loss to Nationwide League* football of Barry Hayles (Bristol *Rovers*), Paul Barrowcliff (Brentford) and Efetobor Sodje (Macclesfield Town). Their cause has not been helped by the loss of Paul *Thompson, a forward signed* for £15,000 from Gateshead, who collected a serious ankle injury in a pre-season match. Nevertheless, *for Yeovil it still* promises to be a stern reintro*duction to a league* in which the kind of pushovers available at lower levels will not be forthcoming.

Another intriguing encounter is the meeting at Kingfield between Woking, with John McGovern, *their new manag*er, and Telford United, under *the stewardship of Steve Daley,* once a £1 million footballer, who took over when Jake King brought his short spell at Bucks Head to a close when switching to Shrewsbury Town.

Kidderminster Harriers, away to *Stalybridge Celtic,* and Rushden and Diamonds, *at home to Northwich Vic*toria, start as joint-favourites with *Stevenage.* Kidderminster, overhauled by Macclesfield last year, have spent a modest portion of the fee paid by West Bromwich Albion for Lee Hughes *on signing* Adie Smith from Bromsgrove *Rovers* for £15,000.

Rushden, in Brian Talbot's first *full* season as manager, will be hoping to keep up the strong form that they showed to *finish last season.* They have brought in Adrian Foster, top scorer in Hereford's relegation season, to reinforce their attack.

Hereford, *bidding to emu*late Lincoln City and Darlington and gain an instant return to their former status, have added Neil Grayson, from Northampton Town, *as a re*placement. Tony Agana, his *fellow forward,* will *be* on hand to remind his colleagues what lies in store — having begun his footballing travels at Welling.

RUGBY UNION: DOUBTS OVER GEOGHEGAN PROMPT SURPRISE MOVE TO RECREATION GROUND FOR WALES VETERAN

Bath thank Evans for solving wing dilemma

BY DAVID HANDS, *RUGBY CORRESPONDENT*

DAVID ROGERS / ALLSPORT

Evans was in inspirational form for the British Isles in South Africa during the summer before sustaining a thigh muscle injury

INSTEAD of a new rugby union season slipping in with an apologetic cough, it announced itself with a crash when Bath signed Ieuan Evans yesterday. The Wales and British Isles wing, who has played for Llanelli throughout his senior career, will conclude it with two years at the Recreation Ground.

Amid the flutter created this week by Gregor Townsend trailing his talents before Bath and Cardiff, before deciding to stay at Northampton, the strike for Evans's services came out of the blue. At 33, Evans showed for the Lions in South Africa this summer that there is plenty of enthusiasm remaining, until a torn thigh muscle ended his tour prematurely. Bath will be delighted to have purchased a proven finisher at a time when they are short of wings.

Simon Geoghegan's future remains in doubt after yet another operation on his troublesome foot. Adedayo Adebayo was injured playing for England in Argentina and Jon Sleightholme strained a groin during Thursday night's friendly with Newbury — not that Evans will be available for the start of the Allied Dunbar Premiership next weekend, since he is to be married and will be honeymooning thereafter.

Nevertheless, a transfer fee of £75,000 is a comparatively small price to pay for the services of a player capped 71 times by Wales and his country's record try-scorer, with 33. At the same time, Llanelli need all the cash they can get, having been forced to sell their ground to the Welsh Rugby Union during the summer.

"We were more than satisfied with the transfer fee involved," Stuart Gallacher, the Llanelli chief executive, said. Indeed, Llanelli promptly announced the signing of Warren Leach, the Swansea right wing, and are set to unveil a southern-hemisphere lock on Tuesday.

Bath have been interested in Brian Lima, the Western Samoa centre or wing, but they have secured Evans in time to beat the deadline for European qualification. Having been linked with Harlequins last season, Evans, who captained Wales on 28 occasions, is likely to make his debut in the Heineken Cup match with Pontypridd, on September 6.

Nor did yesterday's events do anything to dampen speculation concerning the future of Jack Rowell as England coach. Throughout the summer, Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, has been touted as a potential successor, though, if the Rugby Football Union's playing committee (which meets on August 28) recommends that course of action, the union will have to pay considerable compensation to Northampton, with whom McGeechan still has a six-year contract.

However, Northampton have also approached Sale over the possible transfer of John Mitchell, their player-coach from Waikato. "John is under contract with Sale, with one year of his existing deal left," Howard Thomas, the Cheshire club's chief executive, said. "In fact, we are very close to him agreeing a new five-year contract with us. He wants to stay at Sale."

The fact that Northampton made the approach, however, does suggest that they may lose McGeechan, whose enthusiasm for working in international rugby was renewed by the Lions' series success in South Africa. The Scottish Rugby Union are keen to retain him as a consultant, but the challenge in England, where McGeechan has spent nearly all his working life, would add a further dimension to his career.

Sale, meanwhile, having signed Kevin Ellis from Bridgend to play scrum half, have also agreed a short-term contract with Graham Dawe. The former England hooker concluded his Bath career with a testimonial match earlier this month and Sale have persuaded him to provide back-up for Steve Diamond.

While English clubs take the opportunity for warm-up games, the Welsh League begins in earnest today, as does the French season. Nowhere will matters be more earnest than at Sardis Road, where Pontypridd, the league champions, open this evening against Cardiff's expensive autumn collection.

Cardiff are missing Keith Stewart, with a badly-damaged ear, but their back row will include the disparate international talents of Emyr Lewis, Gwyn Jones and Gregori Kacala, the muscular Pole who helped Brive to win the Heineken Cup last January.

Cardiff's national-squad players are also desperate to see an end to their club versus country squabble. It is hoped that talks scheduled for Monday evening will resolve the issue.

CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE WELSH LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Bridgend

Finished last season at the head of the mid-table group, too far adrift to qualify for Europe but fighting desperately not to be one of the four relegated clubs. Capable of brilliance on their day, but lacking consistency. Much will depend upon the powerful Gareth Thomas, who is also captain, and the old head that Stuart Evans should provide in the forwards.

Coaching director: John Phillips. **Captain:** Gareth Thomas.
TRANSFERS: In: Gareth Cull (Kenfig Hill), Stuart Evans (Swansea), Jonathan Dodd (Dunvant), Owain Lloyd (North Harbour). *Out:* Kevin Ellis (Sale), Jason Forster (Bedford), John Gral (released), Dafydd James (Pontypridd), Gareth Rowlands (Newport), Kevin Walker (Caerphilly).
1997 position: 5th.

Cardiff

By far the best-financed club in Wales and spending accordingly during the summer. The depth of talent available to Alex Evans should ensure at least one title, possible more, coming to the capital, though the Australian coach has to make the different pieces fit. The arrival of Bobby Ross should fill the full back berth vacated by the injured Justin Thomas; a leading European contender too.

Coaching director: Alex Evans **Coaches:** Terry Holmes, Charlie Faulkner, Geraint John. **Captain:** Jonathan Humphreys.
TRANSFERS: In: Spencer John (Llanelli), Gregori Kacala (Brive), Tony Rees (Brive), Bobby Ross (British Columbia), Matthew Silva (West Hartlepool), John Tait (Ontario), Steve Wake (Dunvant), Steve Williams (Neath) Out: John Wakeford (Bristol).
1997 position: 4th

Ebbw Vale

No one enjoyed visiting Eugene Cross Park last season and home form was vital as the Gwent club fought to avoid relegation. Buoyed by a successful cup campaign, distracted during the summer by legal battles with the Welsh Rugby Union, they will go into a new season knowing they will be many pundits' favourites for relegation — just the sort of motivation the old steel town needs.

Coaches: Lee Jones and John Williams
Captain: Kingsley Jones.
TRANSFERS: In: John Funnell (Neath), Leighton Phillips (Newbridge), Byron Taylor (Twickenham), Iestyn Thomas (Pontypool), Lennie Woodard (Pontypool). *Out:* none
1997 position: 7th.

Llanelli

Embroiled in financial difficulties for much of the year, Llanelli remain a cult club in many respects. Their positive attitude to the game is traditional, as well as being favoured by Gareth Jenkins, their coach, but their forwards may struggle against top-rate opponents. Success more likely in cup competition than in the league, but only the bravest would write them off completely.

Coaches: Gareth Jenkins and Nigel Davies
Captain: Robin McBryde
TRANSFERS: In: Cen Davies (Dunvant), Aled Jones (Aberavon), Darril Williams (Bonymaen) Out: Spencer John (Cardiff)
1997 position: 3rd

Neath

The heart was torn from the 1996 league champions a year ago when they lost the Llewellyn brothers and they have continued to lose their best forwards. They have looked abroad to replace the likes of John Davies and Barry Williams, but they will face the season with fingers furtively crossed that the exciting patterns that enhanced Welsh rugby two years ago can be woven again.

Coaches: Brian Nicholas and Mike Budd
Captain: Geraint Evans
TRANSFERS: In: Metin Davies (Dunvant), Thierry Dovergne (Montpellier), John Hart (Australia), Fabrice Landreau (Grenoble), Adam Palfrey (Newport), Tomasi Tabui (Fiji), Richard Wintle (Treorchy) Out: John Davies (Richmond), John Funnell (Ebbw Vale), Mark Glover (Dunvant), Darren Morris (Maesteg), Chris Scott (Worcester), Barry Williams (Richmond), Steve Williams (Cardiff)
1997 position: 8th

Newport

The backroom staff look to have the knowledge to make more of Newport than has been their custom of late. Their recruiting net has been broad and if they can become the focal point for East Wales, it will create a valuable counterpoint both to Cardiff and the successful West Wales clubs. There are enough good and ambitious players in Gwent for Newport on the coast and Ebbw Vale up the valley to benefit.

Director of rugby: Tommy David. **Coaches:** Steve Jones, Steve Fenwick and Stan Lyptrot. **Captain:** Ian Jones
TRANSFERS: In: Paul Cooke (Wellington, NZ), Steve Evans (London Broncos), Chris John (West Hartlepool), Nathan Jones (unattached), Andrew Lewis (Treorchy), Chester Robinson (St Peter's), Gareth Rowlands (Bridgend) Out: John Colderley (Mostley), Adam Palfrey (Neath)
1997 position: 6th

Pontypridd

The league champions are the supreme example of a club that makes the most of limited resources: if all were as sensible in their approach, professional rugby would be on a sounder footing. They have lost only one of last season's successful squad, they have one of the world's best goalkickers in Neil Jenkins and they will contest the final stages of all three competitions for which they qualify.

Coaches: Dennis John and Lyn Howells
Captain: Neil Jenkins
TRANSFERS: In: Andre Bernard (Natal), Mike Griffiths (Wasps), Dafydd James (Bridgend), Mike Kennedy (West Hartlepool). Out: Owen Robins (Caerphilly)
1997 position: 1st

Swansea

Having lost Mike Ruddock to Leinster, Swansea have turned to the southern hemisphere for coaching direction. John Plumtree, a New Zealand lock who played much of his rugby for Natal, will bring new influences to bear on a talented squad who will contest the league title again. After a year away recovering from a broken leg, Tony Clement returns to the game.

Coaching director: John Plumtree **Coaches:** Kevin Hopkins and Trevor Cheeseman *Captain:* Garin Jenkins
TRANSFERS: In: Tyrone Maullin (Natal) Out: Keith Colclough (retired), Mark Evans (Aberavon), Stuart Evans (Bridgend)
1997 position: 2nd

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bradford hope to clinch title tonight

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A BULL-RUNNING festival has prompted Paris Saint-Germain to put back their match against Warrington Wolves to 8pm tonight — just as Bradford Bulls may be completing their charge towards the Stones Super League title.

Bradford need only to draw at Sheffield Eagles to secure the title, but, since domestic opposition has looked incapable of touching them in the league this season, the Bulls will want to cross the finishing line without dropping a point en route, a milestone that has proved to be beyond any previous champions in the past 102 years.

Their run of 18 successive league wins has only briefly been threatened on a wobbly night in Paris and a tough one in Wigan. When ordinary, they have still appeared unbeatable; at their best, they have proved unstoppable. Were Sheffield to interrupt the Bulls' progress, the title would still be theirs if London Broncos have their mathematical interest terminated tomorrow evening by Leeds Rhinos.

Bradford can thus secure their first league championship since the 1980 and 1981 titles under Peter Fox and, with three matches remaining, go on to establish a record for the top flight of winning the lot. Hull achieved the feat in the second division in 1978-79, when they won all their 26 matches.

Injuries have prevented Robbie Paul, who switches to stand-off half tonight, from playing much more than a peripheral role in the Bulls' expected triumph. Teamwork, hard graft and strength in depth — sufficient to withstand stiff European competition, but not infinitely stronger Australasian opposition in the world club championship — have been the key to Bradford's success.

James Lowes, the hooker, has typified their approach. Uncompromising, unyielding and efficient, Lowes has worked tirelessly, as has Steve McNamara, part of the brains' trust in midfield. Throw in two resourceful Australians, Graeme Bradley and Danny Peacock, and a pack built around such rugged customers as Brian McDermott and Bernard Dwyer, and the ingredients were always there.

Matthew Elliott, in his first season in charge, is poised to join the list of young, successful Australian coaches in Britain. Where Shaun McRae and St Helens led last year, Elliott has followed.

Sheffield, fully capable of delaying the championship party, surprisingly beat Wigan Warriors six days ago at the Don Valley Stadium. They also have defeated Perth Reds, going one better than Bradford, whose failure to win a game in the world club championship group phase is the awkward contrast to their anticipated triumph on the European stage.

In the struggle to avoid the one relegation place, Paris, who beat a virtual second team to St Helens for the world championship play-off in midweek, have their priorities on the match against Warrington, themselves not totally out of danger.

Castleford Tigers, a point above Oldham Bears at the bottom, entertain St Helens, while Oldham seek to extend the 13-match losing run of Halifax Blue Sox.

BOWLS

Price has chance to join elite

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

MARY PRICE, the defending champion, will play Jean Baker, the 1989 champion, in the final of the English Women's Bowling Association national singles championships at Royal Leamington Spa this morning.

Price, who defeated Norma Shaw in the quarter-finals yesterday, dashing the seven-times world indoor champion's hopes of winning the national outdoor title for the first time, will be appearing in her fifth final, seeking to equal two long-standing records by winning the trophy for the third time.

Only two women, Nancie Colling and Mavis Steele — who are both officiating at Leamington — have won the title three times, while Steele, who won in 1961 and 1962, is the only player to have retained it.

Next week, Price will be carrying England's hopes in the singles, skipping the pair, in the Atlantic Rim championship in Llandrindrod Wells, where Baker will play a supporting role in the triples and fours.

Yesterday, Price hit top form to defeat Shaw 21-11 and remarked afterwards that it had been easy to concentrate against such a formidable opponent. In her semi-final, Price took a 12-2 lead at seven ends against Shirley Dimbleby, from Bourne Town, but then lost her way and the Lincolnshire champion overcame her early nerves and closed to 12-11 four ends later.

Dimbleby eventually levelled at 18-18, but Price turned the screw over the last two ends and was relieved to get home 21-18 with a single and a double.

Baker beat Doreen Hankin, 21-18 and clinched her place in the final with a 21-12 win over Janet Green, who was stung by a wasp on her bowling arm during the quarter-finals.

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EQUESTRIANISM: FUNNELL LOOKS ON BRIGHT SIDE AFTER BEING FOILED IN ENTHRALLING FINISH AT HICKSTEAD

Charles triumphs in trial by narrowest of verdicts

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

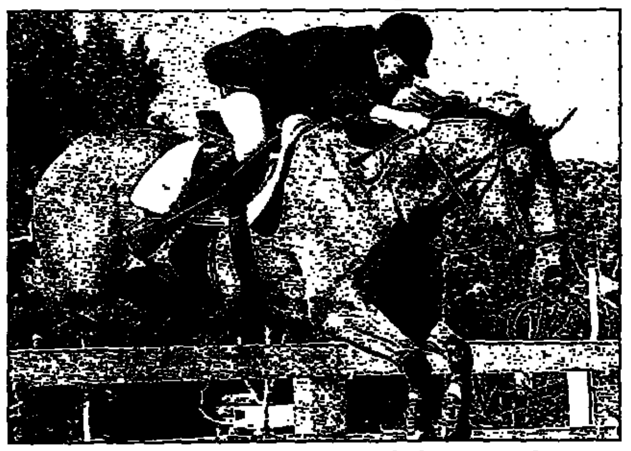
PETER CHARLES, of Ireland, the European champion, underlined his class when he and T'Aime gained a thrilling victory, by 0.01sec, over William Funnell, of Great Britain, on Comex in the sun-scorched Derby trial at Hickstead yesterday.

However, this stylish win, six days after Charles and T'Aime won the puissance at the Dublin Horse Show, does not augur well for their chances in the Derby, the focal point of this four-day meeting, tomorrow. Since the Derby started, only one rider — Eddie Macken, on Boomerang, in 1979 — has won both the trial and the Derby in the same year.

Funnell professed to having timed his jump-off "to perfection" by losing narrowly. "I thought I'd better not win as it might spoil my chances in the Derby," he said.

However, Charles, whose horse has never competed in a Derby before, shrugged off the so-called jinx. "It doesn't bother me," he said, after receiving his £2,500 first prize. "I'm quite happy and I'll be having a determined crack on Sunday. I'm quite happy to put money on myself to win."

T'Aime, a French-bred nine-year-old, who was given to Charles last year in part-exchange for his former horse, Benetton, has had a difficult time impressing his rider. Despite several international successes, including the opening event at the Royal International event last month, Charles was muted in his praise. "He doesn't seem to have a lot of character. He just stands there and doesn't do anything. But he's sort of growing on me."



Charles and T'Aime go clear on their way to victory

His scope and courage were on conspicuous display yesterday. Only five of the assorted 49-strong field were clear over Jon Doney's first round course, which included several of the Derby fences — most notably the first two elements of the notorious Devil's Dyke and the Derby Rails, the last of the 13 fences. In the jump-off, Charles, going second, produced a flat-out gallop down the arena to the double at fence ten. There was then an audible intake of breath from the stands when he cut in sharply to fence 12, finishing the course in 49.32sec.

Funnell, the local hero, who was fourth in the Derby with Comex in 1994 but missed last year when the 13-year-old banged himself in the field, was next into the arena. Urged on by a crowd of adoring Pony Club children — "more leg, William, more leg," they shouted as he approached the double — Funnell fell a fraction of a second behind Charles with a wider sweep into fence 12 and then took a judicious pull going into the last fence.

With the Derby usually favouring the more experienced partnerships, Funnell looks to have one of his best chances tomorrow. Two of the few other British riders to impress yesterday were Mark Armstrong, with the obliging Primma, who finished third, and Richard Barton on the bold Just Marius, who faulted at the first fence but jumped the rest of the exacting course with ease.

The two Derby favourites — Nelson Pessoa, of Brazil, on Loro Piana Vivaldi, the winner last year, and John Ledingham, of Ireland, on Kilbaha, the winner in 1994 and 1995 — both made mistakes. Kilbaha faulted at the Derby Rails, the last fence, in an otherwise ideal round. Pessoa retired after hitting the first part of the dyke, but remained in confident mood. "Today was a good school for him," he said of his 19-year-old. "On Sunday, he will be clear."

RESULT: Derby Trial: 1, T'Aime (P Charles, Ire) 0 faults in 49.32sec; 2, Comex (W Funnell, GB) 0 in 49.33; 3, Primma (M Armstrong, GB) 4 in 54.32

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath v Rothwell; Forest Green v Cambridge City; Gloucester v Hastings; Halesowen v Ashford; King's Lynn v Bromsgrove; Nuneaton v Merthyr; Salisbury v Gresley; Sittingbourne v Burton Albion; St Leonards v Atherstone; Tamworth v Dorchester; Worcester City v Crawley. **Midland division:** Brackley Town v Grantham; Evesham v Raunds T; Hinckley Utd v Bilston; Ilkeston v Solihull Boro; Moor Green v Corby; Paget R v Stourbridge; RC Warwick v Stafford; Redditch v Wisbech; Shepshed D v Sutton Coldfield Town, VS Rugby v Blakenhall. **Southern division:** Bashley v Cinderford; Chelmsford v Clevedon; Erith and Belvedere v Cirencester Town; Margate v Trowbridge; Newport AFC v Baldock; Newport (IoW) v Fisher London; Tonbridge Angels v Fareham; Weston-super-Mare v Dartford, Weymouth v Fleet T; Witney v Havant; Yate v Waterlooville.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Harrow; Boreham Wood v Bromley; Chesham v Gravesend and Northfleet; Dagenham and Redbridge v Carshalton; Dulwich v Heybridge; Hendon v St Albans; Kingstonian v Bishop's Stortford; Oxford City v Enfield; Sutton Utd v Hitchin; Walton and Hersham v Basingstoke; Yeading v Purfleet. **First division:** Aldershot Town v Chertsey; Barton Rovers v Bognor Regis; Billericay v Worthing; Croydon v Leyton Pennant; Leatherhead v Berkhamstead; Maidenhead v Thame Utd; Molesey v Romford; Staines v Grays; Uxbridge v Hampton; Whyteleafe v Abingdon Town; Wokingham v Wembley. **Second division:** Banstead v Barking; Bracknell v Canvey Island; Braintree v Northwood; Chalfont St Peter v Met Police; Cheshunt v Bedford T; Edgware v Horsham; Leighton Town v Hungerford; Marlow v Witham; Tilbury v Windsor and Eton; Tooting and Mitcham v Egham; Wivenhoe v Wealdstone. **Third division:** Aveley v Hornchurch; Camberley v Lewes; Clapton v Corinthian-Casuals; Dorking v Southall; Flackwell Heath v Kingsbury; Ford v Hertford, H Hempstead v East Thurrock; Tring v Croydon; Ware v Harlow; Wingate and Finchley v Epsom and Ewell.

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Caernarfon; Carmarthen Town v Cemaes Ynys Mon; Conwy v Haverfordwest (2.0); Flint Town v Newtown, Porthmadog v Rhayader Town; Rhyl v Inter Cable-Tel; Total Net Solutions v Caersws.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Sandhurst; Chessington and Hook v Viking Sports; Cobham v Reading Town; Cove v Chipstead; Farnham v Raynes Park Vale; Feltham v Ash; Godalming and Guilford v Netherne, Hartley Wintney v Westfield; Merstham v Bedfont; Walton Casuals v Cranleigh

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Backwell v Chard; Bridgewater v Paulton R; Bristol Manor Farm v Melksham; Calne v Barnstaple; Chippenham v Bideford; Elmore v Brislington; Keynsham v Tiverton; Mangotsfield United v Westbury; Taunton v Odd Down; Torrington v Bridport.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: AFC Newbury v Christchurch; Totton v Lymington; Bournemouth v BAT; Brockenhurst v Portsmouth; Cowes Sports v Aerostructures; Downton v Wimborne; East Cowes v Ryde Sports; Gosport v Eastleigh. Romsey v Bemerton Heath; Whitchurch v Thatcham Town.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Whitehawk; Burgess Hill v Littlehampton; Chichester v Peacehaven and Telscombe; Hailsham v Portfield, Horsham YMCA v Ringmer, Langney Sports v Shoreham; Mile Oak v Redhill; Pagham v Saltdean; Selsey v Hassocks; Wick v Eastbourne Town.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Abingdon, Banbury v Kintbury; Bicester v Shortwood; Didcot v Highworth; Endsleigh v Wantage; Fairford v Swindon Supermarine, Harrow Hill v Carterton, North Leigh v Hallen; Tuffley v Burnham.

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Bridgnorth v Kings Norton; Chasetown v Bloxwich Town; Halesowen H v Boldmere St M; Pershore T v Rocester, Rushall O v W Mid Police, Sandwell v Barwell; Shifnal T v Stratford T; Stapenhill v Oldbury, Wednesfield v Pelsall V; Willenhall v Knypersley V

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch v Southam, Bilston Community College v Studley BKL; Bolehill Swifts v Kings Heath; Coleshill v Coventry Sphinx; Handrahan Timbers v Massey Ferguson, Highgate v Dudley Sports; Kenilworth v David Lloyd AFC, Knowle v Cheslyn Hay; Meir KA v GPT (Coventry); Worcestero v Continental Star

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich S v Cradley Town; Darlaston v Stourport S; Kington v Malvern T; Ludlow T v Bustleholme, Stafford T v Westfields; Tividale v Brierley Hill T; Walsall Wood v Gornal A; Wolverhampton C v Lye Town; Wolverhampton v Ettingshall.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Prescot Cables; Blackpool Rovers v Chadderton; Burscough v Kidsgrove; Clitheroe v Ramsbottom; Glossop North End v Vauxhall GM; Haslingden v Darwen, Holker Old Boys v Nantwich Town; Maine Road v Atherton Collieries; Newcastle Town v Rossendale; St Helens v Salford; Warrington v Mossley

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Liverpool v Aston Villa.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Linfield; Ballymena v Cliftonville; Glentoran v Coleraine; Omagh v Glenavon, Portadown v Crusaders

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP: Section B: Finn Harps v Sligo (7.30). Section C: Galway v Limerick (7.30).

WILKINSON SWORD LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Institution v Banbridge; RUC v Chimney Corner.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Tennents Cup. Brora v Clachnacuddin, Buckie Thistle v Keith, Deveronvale v Peterhead; Elgin v Lossiemouth; Fort William v Wick Academy; Huntly v Cove; Nairn County v Forres Mechanics; Rothes v Fraserburgh.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Arsenal (11.0) Charlton v Crystal Palace (11.0); Fulham v West Ham (11.0); Leyton Orient v Gillingham (11.0); Millwall v Portsmouth (11.0); Queens Park Rangers v Southend (11.0); Watford v Ipswich (11.0). Second division: Brighton v Tottenham (11.0); Bristol City v Barnet (11.0): Bristol Rovers v Wimbledon (11.0), Colchester Utd v Bournemouth (11.0); Oxford Utd v Brentford (11.0). Reading v Luton (11.0). Southampton v Swindon (11.0)

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, first day of three
CANTERBURY: Kent v Australians

Tour match
11.0, second day of tour
CHELMSFORD: First-class counties XI v Pakistan A

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Lancashire
PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v Yorkshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Surrey
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Somerset
HOVE: Sussex v Gloucestershire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Glamorgan

AON RISK TROPHY (one day): Semi-final: Northampton: Northamptonshire v Surrey

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Inter-provincial championships
Connacht v Munster (at Sports Ground, Galway)
Leinster v Ulster (at Donnybrook)

Welsh League
Premier division
Ebbw Vale v Swansea (6.30)
Llanelli v Neath (2.0)
Pontypridd v Cardiff (6.0)

First division
Aberavon v Dunvant (2.0)
Abertillery v Treorchy
Bonymaen v Llandovery
Caerphilly v Rumney (2.0)
Cross Keys v Blackwood
Maesteg v South Wales Police
Merthyr v Pontypool (2.0)
Cardiff Institute v Newbridge (2.0)

Club matches
Leicester v Caledonia Reds (3.0)
Northampton v Gary Pearce Inv XV (3.0)
Moseley v Birmingham/Solihull (3.0)
Nottingham v Rotherham (3.0)
Richmond v London Scottish (1.0)
Sale v Glasgow (3.0)
Saracens v Wasps (at Vicarage Road, Watford, 3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Paris v Warrington (at Bayonne Municipal Stadium, 8.0)
Sheffield v Bradford (6.30)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: EWBA national championships (at Leamington)

CYCLING: British omnium track championship (Meadowbank, Edinburgh, 2.0). Welsh Magic Dragon time-trial series (Abergavenny, 25 miles, 10.0)

EQUESTRIANISM: Jumping Derby meeting (at Hickstead)

GOLF: Weetabix Women's British Open (at Sunningdale): British mid-amateur championship (at Prestwick)

HOCKEY: Tour match: Southgate v India under-21 (at Bisham Abbey, 4.30)

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bradford v Belle Vue (7.30); Coventry v Peterborough (7.30). Premier League: Berwick v Glasgow (6.30); Stoke v Hull (7.30). Amateur League: Berwick v Belle Vue (8.0); King's Lynn and Ipswich v Oxford (6.0). Swindon and Reading v Lathallan (9.0)

TENNIS: Satellite tournament (at Worthing)

Tomorrow

FOOTBALL

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Cwmbran v Connah's Quay (3.0); Welshpool v Ebbw Vale (3.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP: Section A: Cork v Kilkenny (2.0). Section B: Fanad v Derry (3.0). Section D, Monaghan v Dundalk (7.0). Section E. St Francis v Shelbourne (3.15). Section F: UCD v Bohemians (3.15)

CRICKET

Tetley's Challenge Series
11.0, second day of three
CANTERBURY: Kent v Australians

Tour match
11.0, third day of tour
CHELMSFORD: First-class counties XI v Pakistan A

Britannic Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Lancashire
PORTSMOUTH: Hampshire v Yorkshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Surrey
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Somerset
HOVE: Sussex v Gloucestershire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Glamorgan

WOMEN'S ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL MATCH (10.45, 50 overs): Taunton: England v South Africa

AON RISK TROPHY (one day): Semi-final: Bristol: Gloucestershire v Nottinghamshire

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of two): Camborne: Cornwall v Wales. Barrow: Cumbria v Northumberland. Exmouth: Devon v Herefordshire

RUGBY UNION

Welsh League
Premier division
Newport v Bridgend (2.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Super League
Castleford v St Helens (6.30)
Halifax v Oldham
Leeds v London (6.35)
Wigan v Salford

Divisional Premiership
Cumbria pool
Barrow v Carlisle
Lancashire Lynx v Whitehaven

East Yorkshire pool
Featherstone v York (11.30)
Wakefield v Hull (3.30)

Lancashire pool
Swinton v Rochdale
Widnes v Keighley (at Canal Street, Runcorn)

West Yorkshire pool
Batley v Huddersfield (3.15)
Bramley v Dewsbury (4.30)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Great Britain v International select (at Crystal Palace)

BOWLS: EWBA national championships (at Leamington).

CYCLING: World Cup Rochester International Classic (Rochester, Kent, 150 miles, 9.30)

EQUESTRIANISM: Jumping Derby meeting (at Hickstead)

GOLF: Weetabix Women's British Open (at Sunningdale). British mid-amateur championship (at Prestwick).

MOTORCYCLING: British Grand Prix (at Donington Park)

MOTOR RACING: British Formula Three championship (at Pembrey)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League, Glasgow v Edinburgh (6.30); Newcastle v Isle of Wight (6.30). Newport v Long Eaton (2.30). Amateur League: Buxton v Oxford (3.0). Mildenhall v Berwick (3.30).

CRICKET

England salvage operation calls for Tufnell

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

Michael Atherton has returned from a golfing break refreshed and eager to lead England in the final Test of summer at the Oval next week. Whether it will also be his final match as captain, however, he has yet to decide.

After a net at Old Trafford, Atherton drove across the Peak District to his championship commitment at Derby on Thursday evening in notably chipper mood. He remains acutely aware of the fevered speculation over his future, but is cheerfully adamant that he will take a decision only when he is ready.

"Rushed decisions are usually wrong," he said. "I've got some time to think and I intend to take it. I realise I have got a lot of support from the selectors and the players and that gives me a good feeling, but in the end it will come down to my own instinct about what is right. In these situations, the gut feeling is generally the best guide."

It will come as some relief to David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, that he can now ink in the captaincy asterisk against Atherton's name. Whatever he may decide thereafter, it would have been against the interests of the team, who continue to revere him, if Atherton had stood down before the Ashes series was concluded.

Atherton's spirits have soared in direct proportion to the chaos surrounding Australia's team. For an England captain, wearily accustomed to disruptions to his own side, it is sweet music to hear that the opposition is suffering for a change. Expect no false sympathy from this quarter: Atherton is seeking to narrow the margin to 3-2 on a ground where England have secured some famous wins in recent years.

The architect of one such victory was Philip Tufnell and he seems certain to receive his first cap of summer and complete a tortured week for Robert Croft. Tufnell mesmerised some gullible West Indians at the Oval in 1991 and, though his career has seldom touched such heights since, he is entitled to his chance now.

Croft, the heart of England's buoyant dressing-room when the series began, has become a diffident, haunted figure in recent weeks. If his shoving match with Mark Ilott was out of character, it was not a complete surprise, given his state of mind.

Statistically, too, his Test match summer has been dismal — eight wickets in five Tests, at 54 runs apiece, and a batting average of below ten. He has to be stood down, not least for humane reasons.

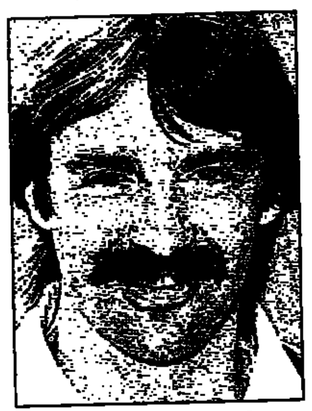
This will be the most straightforward of the changes to be applied when the selectors meet in London this evening. The other area to concern them is the speed with which the batting is too often blown away. They will doubtless seek to reinforce the order, but there is more than one way of achieving it.

Not for the first time, Alec Stewart is the pivotal figure. It is generally agreed that, in the short term — which is all Stewart is ever permitted to consider for a role — he should now remain as Atherton's opening partner. This is his preference and, more important, it gives the team a coherent and complementary first-wicket pair.

'Stewart's glovework can offer no confidence to bowlers short of it anyway'

Stewart's wicket-keeping, however, has been in decline. He has handled the ball untidily for three games now, quite apart from the growing list of missed chances. Such glovework can offer no confidence, especially to bowlers who may be short of it anyway, and it is high time England acknowledged that Stewart, at 34, is no longer capable of such onerous duties.

If the selectors are anxious about the batting, their best course is to instal Jack Russell to keep wicket and bat at No 7. Russell is perhaps playing the best cricket of his career this summer, would demonstrably improve one important area and, in my view, score as many runs as anyone else they could consider for that position. He does, after all, average almost 33 against Australia, significantly higher than Stewart, for one.


Russell: safe hands

Russell's return would permit Adam Hollioake to continue in the top six, where his batting showed encouraging signs of maturity, and his bowling can be used sparingly after the three main seamers — including, it is to be hoped, a fit-again Darren Gough instead of Devon Malcolm. Ben Hollioake's fast-tracking was not a disaster, for he plainly has the raw material to be a Test cricketer, but he must this time be content with a place in the squad as the next phase of his learning curve.

If the selectors are intent that Stewart must continue doing the work of two men, and suffering accordingly, the additional batsman will presumably be chosen from a shortlist that includes Steve James, Graeme Hick and Mark Ramprakash. The last-named is the likeliest to be included, but for a man needing to allay widespread doubts over his head for heights, a single Test at the end of summer is hardly the ideal stage.

My team for the Oval would be: Atherton, Stewart, Hussain, Crawley, Thorpe, A Hollioake, Russell, Gough, Caddick, Headley, Tufnell.

Headley given rest against Australians

KENT have left out Martin McCague and Dean Headley, their opening bowlers, for the three-day match against the Australians that begins in Canterbury today. The fast bowlers are being rested, as is Graham Cowdrey.

Ben Phillips, the fast bowler, and Matthew Walker, the batsman, are recalled to the squad to help fill their places. Ed Smith and Will House, the Cambridge University students, have both been told they will play in the match.

George Salmond, the Scotland captain, will miss his side's meeting with MCC next week because he must resume his teaching duties. Douglas Lockhart takes over the captaincy for the three-day match at Hamilton Crescent, Glasgow, which starts on Wednesday.

Donald Orr, the wicket-keeper, makes his first appearance in three years after displacing Alec Davies, of Grange. Scotland, who drew with Ireland at Malahide last week, have also recalled Bryn Lockie, the Carlton batsman.

The sixth Test Match between England and Australia, which begins at the Foster's Oval on Thursday, is to be broadcast live on the Internet. The web site of the English Cricket Board and MCC will use the BBC's *Test Match Special* to reach a potential worldwide audience that runs into millions. The web site can be reached on http//lords.msn.com.

Smithies, the England captain, ups the tempo during the closing stages of a batting effort marred by sloppy running between the wickets

Flanelled England alert to any threat of turn-up

By Sarah Potter

BRISTOL (South Africa won toss): England beat South Africa by 79 runs

ENGLAND fulfilled their promise to play positive cricket as they overwhelmed South Africa in the first women's one-day international at Bristol yesterday. It was an emphatic, if predictable victory, which should give England the confidence to go on and claim the five-match series.

Crisp white trousers, worn after 70 years of skirts, were adorned by the three lions, the emblem first worn by the England men during their winter tour of New Zealand.

Tim Lamb, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), was on hand and sees further integration as the next step for women's cricket. This could mean Barbara Daniels, as executive director of the Women's Cricket Association, upping stumps to Lord's.

Daniels's forcing innings was cut short in the match when she was run out for 16. Careless cricket in the middle part of the innings threatened to undermine an opening stand of 74, but overall it was a noticeably more professional approach that carried England to 227 for six.

With sponsorship money to spend, the players have been together for a week, something inconceivable in the previous penny-pinching world. The England management did not consider Land Rovers and blindfolds necessary for team bonding, but a stay at a local country club helped massage team spirit.

Charlotte Edwards, 17, did much to keep the party atmosphere going. The young East Anglian impressed with a commanding 45. Her self-inflicted run-out was a sad waste, so elegant were her cover drives and late cuts.

Daniels and Kathryn Leng both perished in the same fashion, after poor calling and over-eager running. The technically correct Helen Plimmer collected 47 before being out leg-before by Cindy Eksteen. Sue Metcalfe, the England vice-captain, then atoned for the running debâcles by scoring an unbeaten 51. Her partnerships with Leng, who scored 23, and the captain, Karen Smithies, unbeaten on 15, picked up the pace of England's innings at a vital time.

South Africa's fielding was athletic and enthusiastic, while the pace bowlers, Eksteen and Denise Reid, both impressed, but the batting revealed inexperience. Smithies showed astute captaincy and self-confidence by opening the bowling. Her gentle looping style and subtle changes of pace completely bamboozled the South Africans and provided an effective contrast to the zip of Clare Taylor.

Smithies bowled her ten overs straight off, taking one for 12. Such a performance will do much to enhance her self-confessed ambition to lead England in the defence of their World Cup title in India later this year.

Sue Redfern plays county cricket for the newly-formed Derbyshire team, but there was nothing of the novice about her bowling display. A penetrating spell of left-arm swing earned her four wickets for 21 runs. Only Helen Davies, the Western Province all-rounder, offered any sustained resistance for the touring side, scoring 64 off 94 balls.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

C Edwards run out	45
H Plimmer lbw b Eksteen	47
B Daniels run out	16
S Metcalfe not out	51
†J Cassar c Terblanche b Reid	5
K Leng run out	23
M Reynard c Terblanche b Kotze	0
*K Smithies not out	15
Extras (lb 11, w 13, nb 1)	25
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	227

C Connor, S Redfern and C Taylor did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-74, 2-119, 3-119, 4-139, 5-188, 6-189.

BOWLING: Eksteen 10-1-44-1; Davies 8-0-35-0; Kotze 10-0-38-1; Reid 8-1-41-1; Price 4-0-17-0; Stoop 10-1-41-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

L Olivier c Edwards b Redfern	25
A Burger c Cassar b Taylor	1
L Korkie c Connor b Smithies	4
K Laing lbw b Redfern	10
H Davies c Connor b Taylor	64
†D Terblanche run out	9
R Stoop b Redfern	13
*K Price c Cassar b Redfern	0
C Eksteen c Edwards b Connor	0
A Kotze not out	6
D Reid not out	5
Extras (b 1, lb 3, w 3, nb 4)	11
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	148

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-12, 3-40, 4-41, 5-80, 6-104, 7-104, 8-122, 9-142.

BOWLING: Taylor 10-2-36-2; Smithies 10-5-12-1; Redfern 10-3-21-4; Leng 7-0-34-0; Reynard 8-0-26-0; Connor 5-2-15-1.

Umpires: J West and L Elgar.

Pakistanis caught napping by Such

By Barney Spender

CHELMSFORD (first day of four; Pakistan A won toss): ECB XI, with eight wickets in hand, are 113 runs behind Pakistan A

ACCORDING to one member of the party, the Pakistan A team did not celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the country's formation on Thursday. "Some went into London to go shopping, but I slept," he said.

Yesterday, he was not alone in his somnolence. The smattering of spectators, still getting over the tension and conflict that accompanied Essex's nail-biting passage to Lord's earlier in the week, were taking it easy in the sweltering heat while the Pakistanis managed to sleepwalk through their first innings.

Unfortunately for them, the ECB XI was wide awake and by the time the Pakistanis came to, the damage had been done. Peter Such, the off spinner and the only player with Test experience in the ECB XI, picked up five for 74 in a 22-over spell and the tourists were bowled out for 227 just before tea.

Abdul Razzaq then charged in as if woken by a bee-sting to dismiss Lewis and Maddy, but David Hemp, continuing the form that brought him a century in the NatWest Trophy semi-final on Wednesday, reached a confident fifty just before the close, adding 75 with Paul Grayson.

The Pakistanis wasted a golden opportunity to bat for a long time on a good wicket. All the top seven reached double figures and three — Mohammed Wasim; the captain, Hasan Raza and Azhar Mahmood — threatened a big innings. However, most of them gave their wickets away with an extravagance that suggested they had been with the shopping party.

Strangely, considering that this final game is their "Test" match, the Pakistanis left out three key players. Ali Naqvi made an excellent hundred against MCC and has looked the best of their openers, Rana Qayyum has done a good job shoring up the middle order and Shoaib Akhtar has been the pick of the fast bowlers. Perhaps fatigue, after seven weeks on the road, has caught up with the management as well.

Graeme Welch, of Warwickshire, made the early breakthrough, but Such, introduced in the 23rd over, quickly settled. Raza struck him for three sixes, but he found enough turn to exploit the Pakistani impatience and thrice found the edge.

The debate over Raza's age is still rumbling. Was he the youngest to play Test cricket when he turned out against Zimbabwe in October aged, apparently, 14 years and 227 days? On this evidence, it hardly matters. He made a delightful 47 before edging carelessly to slip and, whatever his age, he looks likely to make a lot of runs in Test cricket in the years to come.

Border wants Warne to stay in Australia

By Our Sports Staff

ALLAN BORDER, the former Australia captain, yesterday urged Shane Warne to reject lucrative offers from English counties to concentrate on winning Test matches on the subcontinent.

Warne, in England as part of the team that won the Ashes for a record fifth successive time, is being courted by Surrey, Sussex, Northamptonshire and Lancashire, according to reports in Australia, has been tempted by suggested salaries of around £100,000 a season and has made no secret of his interest.

However, with Mark Taylor, the captain, proclaiming Australia to be the world's best team, Border, his predecessor, believes that victories in India and Pakistan are crucial to reinforce those claims.

Border: issued advice

Warne, according to Border, is a key figure in any plan to win those difficult series.

"To be quite honest, I'd prefer to see him not go and play county cricket," Border said. "We've let countless others go over there, me included, so it will be hard to stop him, but given the workload he is under and what's expected in the future, I'd like to see him put the feet up and watch a bit of football." Border played county cricket with Essex during his Test career.

Australia tour India from February to April next year and Pakistan in September and October. "I think we can win on the subcontinent, but the Warne factor looms large in that," Border said.

Australia's last victory in India was a 3-1 win under Bill Lawry in 1970 — on the way to a series loss in South Africa. Richie Benaud was the last man to lead Australia to success in Pakistan, in the 1959-60 season.

"That lack of success on the subcontinent has been one of the disappointments for me personally and for Australian cricket over the past 25 or 30 years since we've won a series over there," Border said.

"If we can keep Warne fit, there's a couple of young spinners on the horizon that can work with him in tandem and that's what you need in the subcontinent. We've got a couple of good quick bowlers and the batting won't be a problem. It hinges on Warne and hopefully we can keep him fit."

Sullied image prompts Lord's to summons Ilott and Croft

ALAN LEE

Cricket Commentary

Cricket has not had a good week. England have lost another Test, the vultures are gathering over the captain and, back in the shires, two players who ought to know better have broken the game's greatest taboo by laying hands on each other. The headlines have been uniformly grim.

Credit, then, is due to the maligned administrators of the game for reacting firmly to the battered image. Yesterday, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) decided that Robert Croft and Mark Ilott, the protagonists in the Chelmsford hostilities, should be summoned before a disciplinary hearing.

This, say the Board, is not a criticism of the counties concerned, each of whom has fined their player £1,000 for the aberration, nor does it follow that these punishments will be increased. What it shows is a proper recognition of the rocky road that could beckon if such incidents were allowed to gain even a suggestion of acceptability.

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, said: "Without prejudging at all, there is a level of behaviour we should never be prepared to tolerate. By electing to stage our own inquiry, I think we are sending out that message."

The decision to call the players before a disciplinary panel was taken by Edward Slinger, vice-chairman of the ECB's disciplinary committee and empowered to act because the chairman, Gerard Elias, is attached to Croft's club, Glamorgan.

After speaking to Elias and Slinger by telephone, Lamb reported: "The view is that the incidents were sufficiently high-profile and serious to merit an independent inquiry. It will be staged early next week before two members of the disciplinary committee and a representative of the Professional Cricketers' Association. Both players will be required to attend."

Lamb confirmed that the panel could spread their inquiry to other aspects of the combustible game at Chelmsford, though this is unlikely. Their powers are virtually limitless and, in theory, they could greatly increase the fines and suspend either or both players. Croft could even be banned from the final Test, if indeed he is selected.

Though this development will dismay the players and their counties, all of whom had liked to think the matter would be regarded as closed, it should be applauded by the wider game.

Further measures may eventually be deemed unnecessary, but it is the fact that the ECB is being seen to investigate that is important.

The petulant push-and-shove scene would have been a commonplace in football, but this is no defence. Football is a physical-contact sport and cricket must guard against any tendency to permit the confrontational posturing that too often passes for routine adult conduct in football.

A great deal has been said this week about improving the mental toughness of our cricketers. Such philosophies are preached periodically when the national team is struggling, but, as Michael Atherton pointed out, mental toughness does not mean either squaring up to an opponent or feeling the need to abuse him.

The Chelmsford tie was fiercely competitive and contained, much that was entirely admirable. However, it also included some sour and regrettable moments and conduct that cricket cannot be seen to condone. The ECB is right to show its concern in this public way and it must take that concern to its conclusion by being open about its findings.

Counties falling for two-tier temptation

By Alan Lee

THE potential for a dramatic revision of the blueprint for cricket's structure has risen with news that a special meeting of the first-class counties has been convened on September 2, almost a fortnight before the far-reaching vote on Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth's document.

I understand that sufficient counties have requested the opportunity to voice their concerns in open forum to force the unscheduled meeting. It will be followed, some days later, by a gathering of the powerful management committee of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), which will then draw up any amendents for the full board meeting on September 15.

Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, said yesterday: "The counties have requested this meeting of the First Class Forum and we see it as a healthy move to attract more debate. Whether they are seeking any fundamental changes to the plan, I cannot say."

Lamb: implications for league

Lamb is aware, however, that a significant number of counties are weakening in their resistance to a two-division championship with full promotion and relegation.

"None have officially registered a change of view," he said, "but I understand some are considering their position. If it did come down to a change, however, the counties would have to think very seriously about the implications for the new National League, which at present is proposed to consist of 25 games. With the commitment to slightly reducing the amount of cricket scheduled, you could not have a 17-match championship and a 25-match one-day league."

By expression, rather than in words, Lamb indicated the rich irony that would evolve if the smaller counties, so opposed to promotion and relegation, were now won round to it because it has more attraction than the proposed conference system. However, it might be said that this was the outcome Lord MacLaurin had in mind all along. If, by seducing the counties into acknowledging that some change is inevitable, MacLaurin now emerges with a mandate for 17-match championship and one-day leagues in two tiers, *Raising The Standard* really might begin to fulfil its objective.

CRICKET: MIDSUMMER MADNESS AS SURREY SPINNER TAKES FIVE WICKETS IN NINE BALLS AT LORD'S

Saqlain has a party at expense of Middlesex

By Michael Henderson

LORD'S (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Surrey, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 82 runs behind Middlesex

IN A baffling hour yesterday afternoon, when it seemed they were batting without a care in the world, Middlesex were suddenly gripped by a form of midsummer madness. Two wickets fell in successive balls, then another two, then three! Down came their nice little house, brick by brick, and all they could see through the rubble of 205 all out was a game that got away.

It was not a distinguished passage of play and they will curse their folly. More than most clubs, Middlesex do not like to hand Surrey any favours and, with the championship lying within their reach — just — they needed a good day to support their ambitions. They ended it on the back foot and, unless they take wickets quickly this morning, they will be trying to save the match when they bat again.

To do so, they will have to play the finger spin of Saqlain Mushtaq with a good deal more conviction than they showed yesterday, when they surrendered five wickets in nine balls. The Pakistan Test bowler, not yet 21, trussed up the batsmen in a spell from the pavilion end that did not, in all honesty, appear all that bewitching.

The last three wickets, linked by separate overs, gave him the first hat-trick by a Surrey bowler in the championship since another overseas bowler, Sylvester Clarke, performed it against Essex in 1987. Kevin Jarvis, of Kent, was the last bowler to do it at Lord's, also ten years ago.

Middlesex, who lost their openers to the modest wobblers of Ben Hollioake, were certainly complicit in their downfall. Shortly after lunch, under a canopy of blue sky, the talk was of Mike Gatting's 93rd hundred and Owais Shah's first.

Apart from pinching two unnecessarily sharp singles to mid-on that a more alert fieldsman than Saqlain would not have permitted, Gatting was in something like his pomp. He moved past fifty and, accompanied by his promising teenage "second", he raised the century stand. In the Middlesex dressing-room, the bowlers put their feet up and, no doubt, supped a Thermos brew.

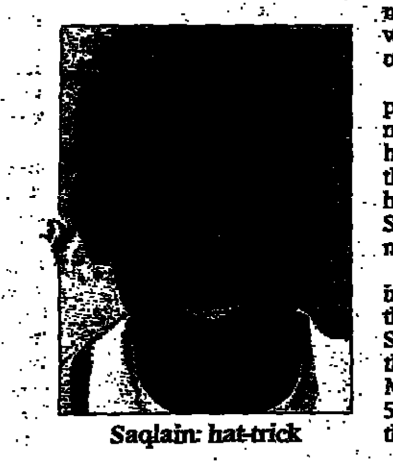
Even when Gatting went, shaping to lap Amin and presenting Thorpe with a dolly catch at backward square leg, there was no scent of the nonsense to follow. Next ball, however, Shah rather apologetically lifted Hollioake minor to long leg. Whether or not the boy is just out of school is immaterial — it was a ghastly stroke and he chose the worst possible moment to attempt it.

The cricket now took on the appearance of a party game. Each succeeding batsman brought a personal gift for Saqlain, who unwrapped them and declared: "How jolly kind of you." Ramprakash and Brown elected to sweep (not very well), Dutch helped one on its way to slip, Johnson thumped to mid-on a catch that took about half a minute to come down and Hewitt, charging the hat-trick ball, prodded to silly mid-on.

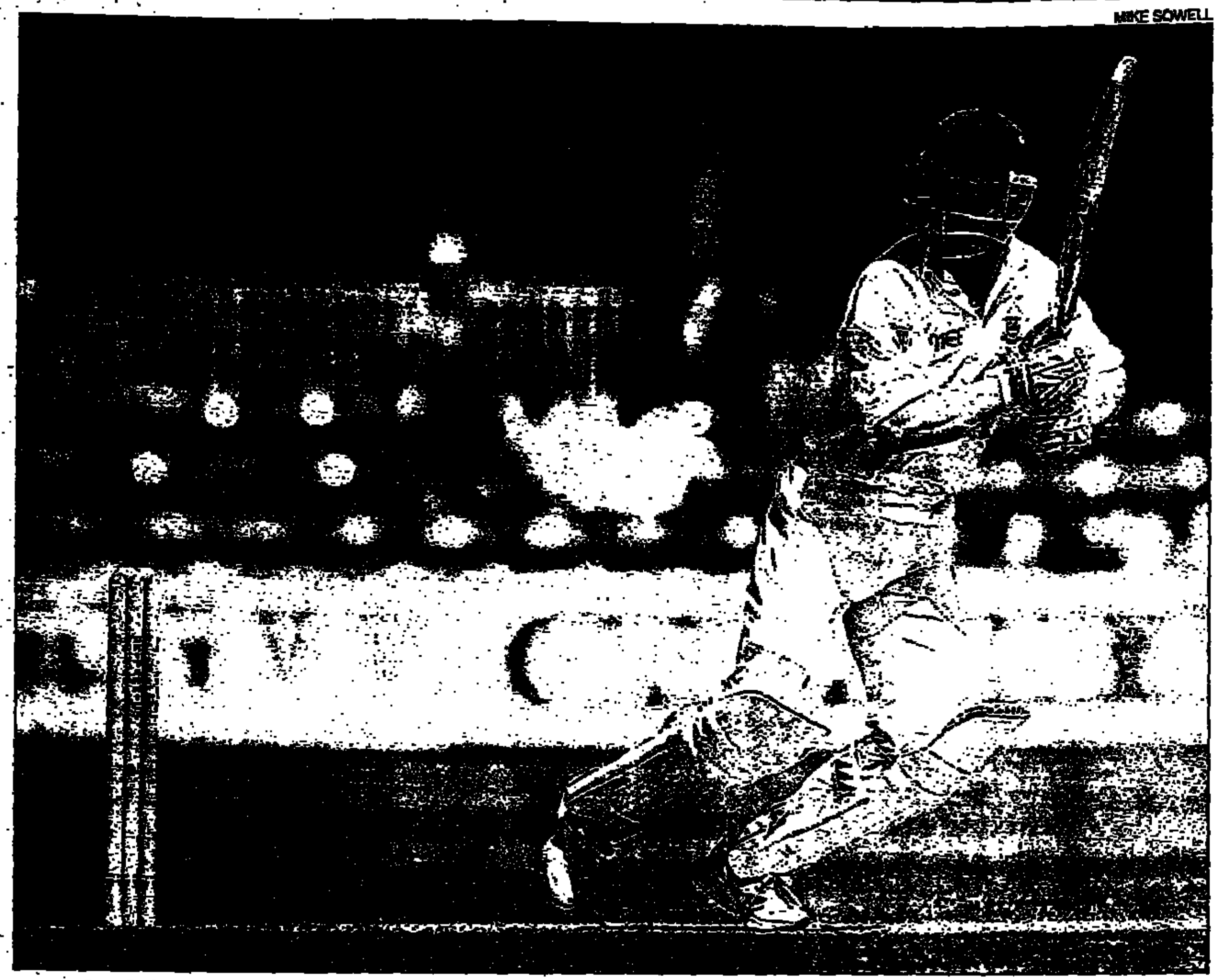
That was it, an innings ruined by indiscretion. From 142 for two and the prospect of a fine day's batting ahead, Middlesex found themselves at 162 for nine. Fraser slogged Saqlain for three sixes over the shorter boundary near the Tavern and had reached 30 merry runs from 27 balls when Tufnell was the last man out.

For Ramprakash, it was a particularly bad day. In the morning, as Brown tossed up, he was attending his grandfather's funeral. In the evening, he watched Butcher push Surrey past the hundred mark.

Middlesex were still bowling at 7pm, having to make up the residue of overs left by Surrey. One over from Lewis that produced two singles for Middlesex was clocked at 5min 36sec. Appalling. Worse than that, disgraceful.



Saqlain: hat-trick



Curtis keeps a watchful eye on the ball after playing a square drive off Thomas at New Road yesterday

Curtis relishes rare taste of freedom

By Pat Gibson

WORCESTER (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 342 for four wickets against Glamorgan

DAVID GRAVENEY, the chairman of the England selectors, and David Lloyd the coach, came to New Road yesterday to have a look at Steve James and Hugh Morris, the Glamorgan opening batsmen who have put themselves into contention for the winter tour of the West Indies, if not the final Test at the Oval next week.

They were wasting their time. James and Morris spent the day perspiring in the field while Tim Curtis, who is not going to figure in any of the selectors' deliberations, took advantage of a bountiful pitch to score his fourth century of the summer and the 43rd of his career.

Curtis was not even supposed to be playing. Now 37, he is retiring at the end of the season to become head of English at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, and was going to have to make way for the return of Graeme Hick after injury until Reuben Spiring pulled out with knee trouble.

The circumstances probably explain the way Curtis played. For years, he has been an obdurate opener, but yesterday, relieved of the pressures of having to prove anything to either his employers or the England selectors who forgot him eight years ago, he batted with rare freedom. All the strokes that had been locked away came pouring out as he outscored even Hick in a second-wicket partnership of 178.

It was the last thing that Glamorgan needed in a week that had seen them knocked out of the NatWest Trophy in that torrid semi-final at Chelmsford and made their pursuit of their first championship since 1969 even more desperate. They have tried to strengthen the batting by leaving out Cottey and giving Mike Powell, 20, his debut, but it was the bowling that seemed undermanned.

Butcher did make any early breakthrough by having Weston leg-before, but Hick pronounced himself recovered from badly bruised fingers with three imperious boundaries before being forced to play second fiddle to the rejuvenated Curtis.

Hick was to contribute only 14 of the first fifty that they put on together, 32 to the first hundred and 65 to their eventual partnership of 178 in 48 overs before he pushed forward to a straight ball from Croft and was caught at slip.

Croft also got rid of Curtis, bowling him through a tired drive, but not before he had made 160 off 272 balls with 36 fours.

Lehmann plunders weakened attack

By John Thicknesse

PORTSMOUTH (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 389 for six wickets against Hampshire

DARREN LEHMANN paid Hampshire the compliment of giving a weakened attack his full attention on the United Services ground yesterday and was rewarded with a superbly-fashioned 182 as Yorkshire headed for a crushing score in conditions made for batting. It was, by five runs, the highest of the Australian's four hundreds for Yorkshire, all scored away from home.

Lehmann, 27, a stocky left-hander, batted for 30 minutes before hitting his first boundary and took 163 balls to reach 64. At that point, though, he hit five fours off seven balls and, from then on, toyed with the Hampshire bowling. The bulk of his runs came on the leg side, but the feature of the innings was his perfect timing straight and through the covers. He hit 28 fours off 266 balls before being caught at slip off Udal 20 minutes from the close.

With the exception of Lee Savident, 20, who, in addition to becoming the first Guernseyman to play county cricket, dismissed David Byas with his fourth ball, Hampshire had a dreadful day. Since injury deprived them of two experienced bowlers, Cardigan Connor and Kevan James, it defied logic that they took six wickets in the day, considering that they put four catches on the floor.

There were moments when the Hampshire fielding brought to mind a story told of Jim Smith, a heavily-built Middlesex fast bowler of the 1930s. Positioned, despite protest, at short-leg, the story went that, when the ball was past him, he took so long to turn that the batsmen took one run, pursued it so slowly they took two and threw so wide they took a third.

John Stephenson, the Hampshire captain, was the bowler when much the same thing happened yesterday, Lehmann running three for a deflection past gulley that stopped well short of the boundary. Stephenson spread his arms as though to ask what on earth was going on.

Hampshire's most laughable piece of fielding far exceeded that, though. When Parker had scored 11, he mistimed a hook off Savident so badly that it flew high and all but vertically off the edge, within easy reach of the bowler and the wicketkeeper. With Laney confusing the issue by trying to reach it from mid-wicket, Savident and Aymes held off. Amid cries of disbelief and anguish, and no doubt laughter from the Yorkshire dressing-room, the ball duly dropped unmolested on the pitch … at most 15 feet from where Parker hit it.

Derbyshire surprise themselves after a shaky start

By Jack Bailey

DERBY (first day of four; Lancashire won toss): Derbyshire have scored 408 for nine wickets against Lancashire

FOR a team languishing at the foot of the county championship table, Derbyshire had an indecently good day. It did not always look that way and a shaky start could have led to disaster, but Kim Barnett, with a typically forthright innings of 86, kept them steady.

Then notable contributions from Ian Blackwell, 19, and the considerably more mature Philip DeFreitas and Karl Krikken took them way beyond reasonable expectations after Barnett had left with the score on 189 for six.

Against a tired-looking attack, Blackwell hit 42 from 62 balls, with a six and six fours, and DeFreitas bludgeoned his way to 96 from only 80 balls. Krikken, that awkward-looking but determined and wholehearted cricketer, simply stayed around. He was dropped on 14 off the luckless Green, but ran past his half-century after 3¼ hours, seeing Derbyshire to a decent score.

The return to championship cricket of Dominic Cork, for the first time since Derbyshire's first match of the season against Kent, saw him make a somewhat surprising appearance at the fall of the first wicket. His innings was sketchy, his demeanour lacking the bombast of his more recent glory days.

When he was out, caught behind off the bustling Green, he did not wait for the umpire's verdict. Those of us who were here, six years ago almost to the day, when he took eight for 53 on his twentieth birthday and announced himself to the world, will wish him well in his climb from the slough of despond in which he finds himself.

Meanwhile, though, his latest dismissal meant that Derbyshire, on 48 for three, were in a spot of bother. Not too serious, you understand, for Barnett was finding his feet. Lancashire's expectations were still high, but the pitch, though offering Martin and company some assistance, lacked real zip, even early on.

Martin did cause early tremors. Rollins was comfortably taken at third slip and then May, having scored 23, became his second victim. Although Cork and Owen also fell before lunch and Clarke, like Owen, chopped the ball on when facing the persevering Austin, Barnett was by now fully into his stride and past 2,000 championship runs against the northern county.

Somerset batsmen forced to proceed with care

By Ivo Tennant

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four; Somerset won toss): Somerset have scored 290 for six wickets against Nottinghamshire

ON A pitch with considerably more grass on it than was the case for the fifth Test match here last week, Somerset had quite a struggle to impose themselves against some accurate seam bowling yesterday. Piran Holloway and Michael Burns both made scores of 72 and Andy Oram finished with four wickets for the second time in his brief career. It was a day for the quintessential English professional.

Oram has made quite an impression in this, his first season with Nottinghamshire. His request for a trial with them came as a result of frustration that he was not achieving anything with Northamptonshire. He took himself off to Australia last winter to prove to himself that he had a future in the game, as indeed he has. If he can add another yard of pace, he should be quite a proposition.

This was not quite the kind of green pitch that Nottinghamshire were coming up with when they last won the championship a decade ago, but there was more grass left on than would normally be expected at this time of year. Oram, Franks and Tolley moved the ball around sufficiently for every batsman to remain circumspect.

The balls that accounted for Bowler, caught at second slip without moving his feet, Lathwell, leg-before, and Trescothick, taken at the wicket, all deviated just enough to beat some indeterminate shots. Ecclestone went to a sharp catch at gully by Afzaal. This is a strangely ill-balanced Somerset side in that they are playing four bowlers, Burns for his batting as opposed to his wicketkeeping and have Lathwell continuing to labour in the middle order.

Holloway is a worthy cricketer. He looks to smell the ball, accumulating all the while. There were six fours in his half-century and his dismissal, through a catch at square leg from an attempted pull off Astle, was something of a surprise. Burns, who was the more aggressive of the two, struck 11 fours and a six in all before Oram had him caught at the wicket.

There was a characteristically useful contribution late in the day from Turner, who continues to hold his place as the first-choice wicketkeeper despite some considerable competition. It was not an exceptional day's cricket, but one with which Somerset would ultimately have been quite pleased.

Fringe performers hold key to title

By Simon Wilde

HOVE (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 291 for eight wickets against Sussex

IF GLOUCESTERSHIRE become county champions next month — and, with Glamorgan struggling yesterday, they may be top of the table again come Monday — it will be officially for the first time in their history.

They have had great cricketers but no great teams and there is the distinct possibility that an honour that eluded Jessop, Hammond, Graveney and Procter will fall to names such as Windows, Dawson, Church and Davis.

These four had made only championship appearances between them before they took the field at Hove yesterday, but they are the men on whom the destiny of the title may now depend. Young has joined the Australians, Wright and Lynch are out of form. Not that their replacements are flush for runs: many members of this title-chasing team are playing for their contracts.

Yet, once again, Gloucestershire somehow contrived to raise the sort of score that should keep them in the game, if not quite in control of it. At one point, they were 119 for five, but a dogged stand of 120 between Bobby Dawson and Jack Russell, who stayed together for nearly three hours, salvaged the situation.

It was a good day to win the toss and bat and both sides are fielding two spinners to take advantage of a dry, turning pitch. Dawson typifies Gloucestershire's problems. Once identified as a burgeoning talent, his career has come to a standstill and he is now 27. Last year, he averaged 11.75; this year, before this game, 7.25 from three matches — which made his watchful stay of 4½ hours for 98 a terrific effort for self and side. He began brightly, but Russell's cussedness seemed to rub off on him and he punctuated bouts of blocking with thumps to the boundary.

If Gloucestershire have a star at the moment, it is Russell, who sold his wicket as dearly yesterday, his 34th birthday, as he has for most of his 15 previous seasons. He was eventually leg-before to the persevering Robinson, crouching and offering no stroke, for 48, ten overs before Dawson propped forward and looped a catch to slip of Khan.

Before their sixth-wicket pair joined forces, Gloucestershire were woeful. Windows, Church and Alleyne failed to get a start, Trainor and Hancock did the hard work and then got out. There were some careless dismissals, but some good bowling from the lively Edwards and Khan, for once, turned the ball often.

Sussex, indeed, looked more like pot-hunters than their guests and showed no sign of carrying a hangover from their NatWest Trophy defeat the day before. Many of them are, of course, also playing for their futures, with the committee meeting on August 26 to decide their staff for next year.

Some pressure has been lifted from the batsmen by the decision of Athey to retire forthwith, after Sussex offered him an administrative post as part of its proposed restructuring.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Tour match

First-class counties XI v Pakistan A

CHELMSFORD (first day of four; Pakistan A won toss): First Class Counties XI, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 113 runs behind Pakistan A

PAKISTAN A: First Innings

Mujahid Jamshed c Nixon b Welch	16
Salim Elahi c Nixon b Such	27
*Mohammad Wasim c Grayson b Such	31
Hasan Raza c Grayson b Such	47
Farhan Adil b Welch	17
Azhar Mahmood b Brown	37
†Javed Qadir c Giles b Such	24
Abdul Razzak b Brown	0
Shoaib Malik st Nixon b Such	1
Irfan Fazil c Nixon b Brown	5
Ali Husain Rizvi not out	1
Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 2, nb 14)	21
Total	227

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-25, 2-81, 3-84, 4-131, 5-167, 6-197, 7-197, 8-198, 9-225.

BOWLING: Ormond 8-1-34-0; Welch 14-3-38-2; Brown 16-3-65-3; Giles 6-3-13-0; Such 22-6-74-5.

FIRST CLASS COUNTIES XI: First Innings

J-J B Lewis b Abdul	4
D L Maddy c Javed b Abdul	17
D L Hemp not out	51
*A P Grayson not out	34
Extras (nb 8)	8
Total (2 wkts)	114

D J Sales, †P A Nixon, D R Brown, G Welch, A F Giles, J Ormond and P M Such to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-39

BOWLING: Abdul Razzak 8-0-33-2; Irfan Fazil 6-3-16-0; Azhar Mehmood 11-7-11-0; Shoaib Malik 8-2-30-0; Ali Husain Rizvi 5-1-24-0.

Umpires: D R Shepherd and H D Bird.

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Lancashire

DERBY (first day of four; Lancashire won toss): Derbyshire have scored 408 for nine wickets against Lancashire

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

A S Rollins c Atherton b Martin	0
M R May c Crawley b Martin	23
D G Cork c Hegg b Green	13
K J Barnett c Hegg b Martin	86
J E Owen b Austin	22
V P Clarke b Austin	15
†K M Krikken run out	72
I Blackwell c Crawley b Gallian	42
*P A J DeFreitas c Crawley b Shadford	96
A J Harris not out	12
D E Malcolm not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 10, nb 16)	27
Total (9 wkts, 104 overs)	408

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-25, 3-46, 4-99, 5-123, 6-189, 7-248, 8-372, 9-402.

BOWLING: Martin 20-6-74-3; Austin 24-7-71-2; Shadford 15-0-108-1; Green 20-6-46-1; Gallian 7-0-29-1; Watkinson 18-1-69-0.

LANCASHIRE: M A Atherton, J E R Gallian, J P Crawley, A Flintoff, G D Lloyd, *M Watkinson, I D Austin, †W K Hegg, P J Martin, R J Green, D J Shadford.

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4 Lancashire 4.

Umpires: M J Kitchen and J F Steele.

Hampshire v Yorkshire

PORTSMOUTH (first day of four: Yorkshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 389 for six wickets against Hampshire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

M D Moxon c Aymes b Renshaw	*0*
M P Vaughan c Aymes b Savident	74
*D Byas c Keech b Savident	26
D S Lehmann c Stephenson b Udal	182
C White b Udal	30
B Parker lbw b Stephenson	20
†R J Blakey not out	29
A C Morris not out	4
Extras (lb 4, w 6, nb 14)	*24*
Total (6 wkts, 104 overs)	389

G M Hamilton, P M Hutchison and R D Stemp to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-39, 3-155, 4-206, 5-266, 6-379

BOWLING: Renshaw 17-3-69-1; Patel 12-2-39-0; Savident 18-5-78-2; Udal 37-10-114-2; Stephenson 18-4-74-1; Hayden 2-0-11-0.

HAMPSHIRE: J S Laney, M L Hayden, G W White, R A Smith, M Keech, *J P Stephenson, †A N Aymes, S D Udal, L Savident, S J Renshaw, C Patel.

Bonus points: Hampshire 2 Yorkshire 4

Umpires. J D Bond and B Dudleston

Middlesex v Surrey

LORD'S (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Surrey, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 82 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

J C Pooley c Butcher b B C Hollioake	10
J H Kallis c Batty b B C Hollioake	23
M W Gatting c Brown b Amin	54
O A Shah c Amin b B C Hollioake	44
*M R Ramprakash c A J Hollioake b Saqlain	8
†K R Brown c Bicknell b Saqlain	7
K P Dutch c Brown b Saqlain	0
R L Johnson c Amin b Saqlain	0
J P Hewitt c A J Hollioake b Saqlain	0
A R C Fraser not out	30
P C R Tufnell c Batty b A J Hollioake	7
Extras (b 3, lb 7, nb 12)	22
Total (68.5 overs)	205

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-38, 3-142, 4-142, 5-159, 6-159, 7-162, 8-162, 9-162.

BOWLING: Bicknell 11-2-33-0; Lewis 12-1-44-0; B C Hollioake 13-4-23-3; A J Hollioake 6.5-1-24-1; Saqlain Mushtaq 14-2-50-5, Amin 12-4-21-1.

SURREY: First Innings

M A Butcher not out	*56*
J D Ratcliffe c Dutch b Fraser	13
G P Thorpe c Ramprakash b Dutch	32
*A J Hollioake not out	14
Extras (lb 6, nb 2)	8
Total (2 wkts, 35 overs)	123

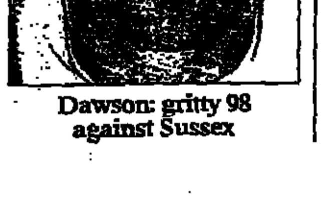
A D Brown, B C Hollioake, C C Lewis, †J N Batty, M P Bicknell, Saqlain Mushtaq and R M Amin to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-99.

BOWLING: Fraser 7-2-19-1; Hewitt 7-0-30-0; Kallis 3-0-9-0; Johnson 6-1-17-0, Tufnell 9-0-27-0; Dutch 3-0-15-1

Bonus points: Middlesex 1 Surrey 4

Umpires: J C Balderstone and G Sharp.



Dawson: gritty 98 against Sussex

Nottinghamshire v Somerset

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four; Somerset won toss): Somerset have scored 290 for six wickets against Nottinghamshire

SOMERSET: First Innings

*P D Bowler c Astle b Tolley	8
P C L Holloway c Johnson b Astle	72
S C Ecclestone c Afzaal b Oram	7
M N Lathwell lbw b Oram	34
M E Trescothick c Noon b Oram	5
M Burns c Noon b Oram	72
†R J Turner not out	46
G D Rose not out	28
Extras (b 2, lb 8, w 2, nb 4)	16
Total (6 wkts, 104 overs)	290

K J Shine, Mushtaq Ahmed and A R Caddick to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-33, 3-98, 4-125, 5-136, 6-228.

BOWLING: Franks 21-4-61-0; Oram 19-6-53-4; Tolley 21-6-48-1. Evans 21-7-47-0; Astle 14-2-35-1; Afzaal 8-1-36-0.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: M P Dowman, R T Robinson, *A A Metcalfe*, N J Astle, *P Johnson, U Afzaal, C M Tolley, †W M Noon, P J Franks, K P Evans, A R Oram.

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 2 Somerset 2.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and J H Harris.

Sussex v Gloucestershire

HOVE (first day of four; Gloucestershire won toss): Gloucestershire have scored 291 for eight wickets against Sussex

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

N J Trainor c Moores b Khan	30
M G N Windows b Edwards	14
T H C Hancock c Bates b Edwards	36
M J Church c Edwards b Khan	4
R I Dawson c Taylor b Khan	98
*M W Alleyne b Robinson	0
†R C Russell lbw b Robinson	48
M C J Ball lbw b Robinson	29
R P Davis not out	1
A M Smith not out	0
Extras (lb 5, w 4, nb 22)	31
Total (8 wkts, 104 overs)	291

J Lewis to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32, 2-56, 3-76, 4-114, 5-119, 6-239, 7-282, 8-289

BOWLING. *Jarvis 23-4-84-0*; Edwards 17-2-48-2; Robinson 25-9-48-3; Khan 17-5-59-3, Bates 13-3-29-0, K Newell 8-3-11-0, Rao 1-0-7-0

SUSSEX: M T E Peirce, R K Rao, N R Taylor, M Newell, K Newell, *†P Moores, P W Jarvis, A A Khan, J J Bates, A D Edwards, M A Robinson.

Bonus points Sussex 3 *Gloucestershire 2.*

Umpires: B Leadbeater and K E Palmer.

Worcestershire v Glamorgan

WORCESTER (first day of four, Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 342 for four wickets against Glamorgan

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T S Curtis b Croft	160
W P C Weston lbw b Butcher	17
G A Hick c Maynard b Croft	65
G R Haynes c Shaw b Waqar	45
*T M Moody not out	30
A Sheriyar not out	2
Extras (b 5, lb 6, w 2, nb 10)	23
Total (4 wkts, 104 overs)	342

D A Leatherdale, V S Solanki, †S J *Rhodes, S R Lampitt and M M Mirza* to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-212, 3-295, 4-337.

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 18-4-73-1; Watkin 22-4-58-0; Butcher 12-2-52-1; Thomas 14-0-69-0; Croft 30-10-49-2; Dale 8-1-30-0.

GLAMORGAN: *H Morris*, S P James, A Dale, *M P Maynard, M J Powell, R D B Croft, G P Butcher, †A D Shaw, S D Thomas, Waqar Younis, S L Watkin.

Bonus points: Worcestershire 3 Glamorgan 1

Umpires: D J Constant and R A White

NAYC ONE-DAY CUP: Semi-finals: Wellington College: Northamptonshire 241-9: Kent 214. Northamptonshire win by 27 runs. Challow CC: Dorset 224-7: Surrey 228-3 (C Hodgson 123 not out, M Carberry 55). Surrey win by seven wickets.

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

MARC ASPLAND

Hateley, who has played on some of the greatest stages in the game, is now at home in the rather more humble surroundings of Boothferry Park, the home of Hull City

Hateley sets new agenda

OLIVER HOLT

Mark Hateley is talking about aggression when the phone starts to ring in his small, rectangular office at Boothferry Park. A pass can be aggressive, he is saying, a run can be aggressive. The phone keeps ringing, shrill and insistent, and he breaks off from his strictures to stare at it as if it were perpetrating an impertinence. He reaches over, lifts the receiver a fraction of an inch from the hndset and puts it straight back down.

It is more important to him than ever now, this aggression that has been his watchword for so long. It was the quality that defined his career, the thing that made him outjump his marker in the Maracaná Stadium all those years ago to head his famous goal against Brazil, the attitude that drove him to the challenge of playing for AC Milan at the age of 21 and took him to a succession of leading clubs across Europe.

In his new world, it is one of the only constants that he has to cling to. There is still a diamond stud embedded in his left ear and his tall, lean frame is still draped in a succession of sharp suits, but they will not help him in the dark places he is about to explore at the wrong end of the Nationwide League.

Six weeks ago, Hateley accepted the position of player-manager of Hull City, one that a national newspaper described as "the job from Hell" last season after the previous incumbent, Terry Dolan, was subjected to a supporters' hate campaign. So far, his new charges have managed a 2-0 defeat to Mansfield Town and a goalless draw with Macclesfield Town. This afternoon, they will try to give Hateley his first victory as player-manager when they take on Notts County.

Not for Hateley the leap from a high-profile playing career to one of the plum managerial posts, the route of a Bryan Robson, a Ray Wilkins or a Gordon Strachan. Hateley is in the basement of football, surrounded by the trappings of mediocrity at a club where a 10in model of a windscreen sits in the reception area, a commemoration of the launch of the Auto Windscreens Shield in 1994 and the closest the club have got to silverware for some time.

The irony, which may not be lost on Hateley, is that he seems eminently better equipped that any of the above mentioned former internationals to be a success as a coach. It is not so much his playing credentials that are so impressive — though they stand up beside those of the rest — but the fact that after barely a month in the job, he has developed a Gordon Gecko-meets-Terry Butcher style that marks him out as a prototype of a managerial hard man for the new millennium.

Above all, he is a consummate professional, hard-working, well-presented, polite in a brusque, matter-of-fact sort of way and honest in a manner that could become brutal. He may be one of those rare men made for management, someone who genuinely does not care if he is liked as long as he is respected, someone whose career could scale greater heights in a position of authority than it did as a player.

"I will be a hard man to play under," Hateley says. "I will be a taskmaster. I like standards, you see. I have always driven myself to those standards and beyond. I have said to the players that anything less than that and they will be out. But you should not have to discipline players. If they go by the rules and give me what I want, then there won't be a problem.

"I am a like-to-take-charge sort of person and one thing I have done already is that if any of the players come up here to the ground for anything, it has got to be a suit and tie. A jacket, a shirt and tie. I am a great believer in setting good standards from day one. If you dress smart, you'll play smart. It's easy to get out of bed in the morning and throw a tracksuit on, but if you take your time when you get dressed in the morning, you wake yourself up and you're switched on. It's an attitude of mind.

The players of Hull City have found that their manager is a tough taskmaster

Hateley in his striking heyday with AC Milan

"I had a lot of offers in the summer, playing offers from America and Europe, better financial offers than I had here, but as soon as I spoke to Tim Wilby, the new chairman here, it felt right. He was a very positive, very aggressive sort of guy, very similar to me, wanted what I want out of life, same ambitions. The club has got a new regime now. It is very ambitious and I think it is a great opportunity for me. This is the level I wanted to come in at. I have always had great ambitions and I would love to be managing in the Premiership in four years' time. I know it is not going to be easy, but if I apply myself as I have done throughout my playing career, it should be easier. I am always moving my targets. I ge to the targets and then I set new ones and that is what I will do here."

Hateley has been around football since his childhood. The son of Tony Hateley, the former Chelsea and Coventry City striker, he was born in Liverpool 35 years ago and began his career with Coventry. He moved down a division to Portsmouth, but Bobby Robson took him on the England tour of South America in 1984 and the goal against Brazil — after an even more memorable one from John Barnes — cemented his reputation.

That prompted AC Milan to sign him and he had two successful seasons there before Silvio Berlusconi took over at the club and instigated the signings of Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco van Basten. He moved on to AS Monaco under the tutelage of Arsène Wenger and then came back to Britain to play for Rangers, where he finished his career at the highest level last season after brief interludes with Queens Park Rangers and Leeds United.

Now, he has moved to a club that gradually plumbed the depths under the guidance of Dolan and finished seventeenth in the third division last season, just ten points clear of falling into the Vauxhall Conference. Hull has been bought by David Lloyd, the former tennis player, present British Davis Cup captain and leisure centre multi-millionaire, and a more expansive approach, including a move to a different stadium, has been promised. However, it will still be a huge task to drag Hull from the mire.

"It was more the majority rather than the minority who were giving the previous manager stick," Hateley said. "They were very disappointed at what he was doing and quite rightly so. I have got the same players that he had and basically, they can all play. If you take a club as far down as he did, you are going to get trouble, but before this season even started, we got 16,000 people for three games in a week and it took them four months last year to get that number through the door. I have got no idea what my resources are going to be yet and I don't know what the budget is going to be. I do know that we have got 40-odd players on the books here, which is far too many and that is going to have to get trimmed down. That is the first bit of the management pressure, telling people they are not going to be wanted, but it has to be dealt with and then we will move on.

"They like to see good football here and we will play football. I have told the players that we will pass the ball all day and that if you stop passing the ball, I will have you off. It is straightforward. We have a couple of formations, a pattern of play and, basically, they do the job I ask them to do."

One suspects that there will not be too many dissenters.

United need Beckham from start

BRIAN GLANVILLE

The FA Carling Premiership is now two games old — or young — but already there seems to be a startling imbalance between the product and the propaganda. Millions have been spent on transfers, millions will go into players' pockets and fans must pay higher and higher prices — there appears to be the law of diminishing returns.

I have seen, so far, five matches and eight different teams. Six and nine if you count the FA Charity Shield. Even making allowance for the recent intense hot weather, quality is at a premium.

If the European Cup is the ultimate criteria, it surely finds our contestants wanting. Only an appalling decision by the referee, ignoring Asprilla's foul on the Croatia Zagreb goalkeeper, allowed Newcastle United, admittedly shorn of Shearer, their meagre 2-1 win in the first leg of a preliminary round tie on Wednesday.

Watching Manchester United prevail at Tottenham Hotspur in the league the previous weekend, it was significant that, for all their second-half superiority, United won through a couple of comic goals. The first came after confusion in the Tottenham defence, a fortuitous deflection and a moment's amnesia, whereby Carr put United onside. The second was a own goal. United's lack of thrust up front was palpable.

Sheringham, for all his wiles, is slow, Jordi Cruyff, praised by Alex Ferguson for his talent, looks lightweight. Cole, absent with an abscess, has never seemed the answer. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, when he returns, will carry an enormous burden. Then there is the question of David Beckham — *or rather of Ferguson's almost perverse treatment of him.*

With some justice, Ferguson was never enamoured of Le Tournoi de France, while Beckham's romantic life — surely his own and nobody else's business — had been splashed across the front pages. So Ferguson seems to have quite arbitrarily decided that Beckham must be tired, using him merely, and wastefully as substitute in the Charity Shield and in United's opening league games. In each of them, Beckham came on to galvanise a side that had stuttered without him.

Liverpool, who appeared to have bought wonderfully well — Ince, Leonhardsen, Danny Murphy — when they might have picked up a goalkeeper, got just one point in their first two games, losing at home to Leicester City. So far the parts are manifestly greater than the whole.

The Barcelona-Steve McManaman saga is a strange one. However high the price, whatever the implications of the Bosman ruling, could Liverpool afford to lose him? Not least when he has grown up at Anfield, committed to the colours. True, there is no sentiment in business, but even at £12 million, would this have been good business? Who, and for how much, might they have bought in his place?

Arsenal, tipped by their former manager, George Graham, seriously or otherwise, for the title, have a superb spearhead in Ian Wright and Dennis Bergkamp, are entitled to hope for great things from Marc Overmars, *but* are surprisingly short of cover in defence, lack invention in midfield, need more than Ray Parlour gives them on the right and have yet to tighten up their discipline.

As for Chelsea, ignominiously beaten by a Coventry City team that looked impotent at Highbury, their transfer policy is bewildering. Endowed with two excellent young backs, Granville and Babayaro, though the Nigerian is injured, *they splash out £5 million for Le Saux, whom they had sold to Blackburn Rovers* (a team to watch) for £690,000.

Awash with goalkeepers, even though Kharine is not yet quite fit, they spent £2.5 million on the Dutch giant, De Goey, who finds it hard to catch a cross. The fatal inconsistency that has been theirs over the decades seems with them still; good bets in the cup, capable of beating anybody on their day — or of losing to anybody else.

—West Ham United look promising. Eyal Berkovic, the mercurial little Israeli, gives new flair and snap to the midfield, though we shall see whether he can keep up his form throughout the winter. The precocious poise, elegance and skill of Rio Ferdinand should make him a full international before long, perhaps alongside the dominating presence of Tottenham's commanding Sol Campbell, a player who has amply proved his international class. We must hope his knee injury proves only transient. So, indeed, must the beleaguered Spurs.

But Leicester, Wimbledon and Barnsley reassure us that *money is not* everything and a league that throws up such *refulgent* young talents as Emile Heskey, Michael Owen and Rio Ferdinand cannot be all bad.

Continuing his series, **Mark Hodkinson** finds Barnsley adjusting to a new profile

Falling victim to first-day nerves

LIFE AT THE TOP

BARNSLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Television regularly serves up dramas on the theme of apocalypse. The bomb is about to drop, heads fall into hands, misanthropists prowl the streets; the whole world has gone Roswell. Barnsley town centre had this sense of eeriness last Saturday afternoon. At Oakwell, home of Barnsley FC, just a mile away, there was colour and life, but the centre could have been brushed by tumbleweed.

Marks & Spencer was deathly quiet, like a Sunday staff training day. The only customers were a handful of old ladies cruising the aisles in search of corn plasters and tins of butter beans; nothing, not even a measly Armageddon, deters these ladies.

Peter Gibbons, the manager of Boots, confirmed that trade had been affected by Barnsley's debut in the FA Carling Premiership. He had no complaints though, three of the Barnsley players had recently popped in for a pedicure. "They carried themselves off well," he said, almost with a hint of surprise, as if he believed that every footballer had learnt etiquette from Carlton Palmer.

The only signs of life were young men outside pubs, glasses of beer in hand, high on anticipation. Many were wearing their replica Barnsley shirts, but others had taken them off to reveal chicken soup skin, going tomato in the sun.

It was not so long ago when a match at Oakwell would go on almost unnoticed by residents living in the red-brick houses around the ground. On Saturday, they waved from deckchairs as the crowd filtered through.

BBC trucks had commandeered part of the car park and cameras roamed in search of a tyke with a quote. The queues for match programmes stretched into the side streets and new businesses had appeared overnight — badge selling, burger selling, Barnsley selling.

The pre-match entertainment was a tad choreographed, but, on such a momentous day, nothing was left to chance. The crowd sang — rather unoriginally — *You'll never walk alone* and hundreds of balloons were released from beneath a giant canopy. It appeared as if every Barnsley supporter was wearing a team shirt and, clearly inspired, the team were beating West Ham United 1-0 after just nine minutes.

The visitors went on to win 2-1, but on Tuesday, Barnsley picked up their first Premiership points with a victory at Crystal Palace. The win has lifted the pallor of anticlimax that settled over the town on Saturday evening. Back in 1898, when Barnsley were elected to the Football League, one committee member muttered his concern that the team "might not uphold the dignity of the club in such surroundings".

On Tuesday evening, in South London, Barnsley damned any brooding home-grown, own-goal logic by upholding their dignity and raising themselves to ninth in the table.

Barnsley is a club waking up to its new status. It aspires to the hospitality age, but there remains an anachronistic, home-spun charm. A phone call to the ground, for example, is answered by a real person, rather than the spurious politeness of an automated switchboard.

The toilets at the rear of the West Stand are open to the elements and visiting supporters are housed in a stand without a roof. Meanwhile, the other two stands are magnificent and the entrance to the ground features a vertical curved window set in brick, giving it a distinctly ecclesiastical touch. It is this nearly-there, half-finished quality that makes Oakwell unique in the top division.

At the end of last season, a handful of reporters were housed among the fans, but the press box has been expanded this term to deal with the deluge. There are plenty of seats, although the aisles between them suggest that measurements were taken using Dennis Wise as the average, when Kevin Pressman might have been more appropriate.

The programme is a colourful and detailed affair, but here Barnsley again reveals its mixture of pragmatism and ambition. There are assiduously researched articles running alongside "Tommy Tyke Sez". Tommy wears a cloth cap, scarf and bemused expression and talks to the world in a treacle thick South Yorkshire accent. He has a special message to the cynics: "We're gooin' ter surprise a few fowk, an slap egg all o'er t'feces o't scoffers."

A club big enough to laugh at itself might well be big enough to survive in the FA Carling Premiership.

JOHN ANGERSON

A Barnsley training session attracts a crowd of schoolchildren, whiling away the summer holidays

[illegible]

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Time to tell real story behind collapse of move that never was

The time has come to put the record straight. I went to Barcelona because Liverpool Football Club agreed a fee with them. No player can speak to another club without being given permission by his own club.

That may seem an obvious statement, but after the week I have endured, it is necessary to spell it out. The one fact that I would like to stress above all others is that it had never even crossed my mind that I would leave Liverpool until they told me about their deal with Barcelona.

I am amazed, and quite appalled, by some of the reaction to my visit to the Spanish city. Apparently, Barcelona have suggested that they did not sign me because I asked for too much money. I did not even meet anyone from Barcelona. I knew 15 minutes before the flight from England that there was a less than five per cent chance of the deal being done.

From the moment I arrived at the airport in the city to the moment I flew out on Friday morning, I did not speak to one representative from the club. I went to the hotel, I went for a meal and then travelled on to Majorca with friends.

Before we left the airport in England, my advisor spoke to Joan Gaspart, a vice-president of the club, on a mobile telephone and that was only a brief conversation attempting to set out what we might talk about. Gaspart was not even in Barcelona when we arrived; he seemed to be elsewhere negotiating with another player.

As he is the man charged with negotiating transfers, I think it is ridiculous — and actionable — to suggest that the deal fell through because I am greedy. There was no deal and I think even the most naive of people can appreciate that Barcelona were actually negotiating with another player because they eventually signed him.

Why they asked me to go over there and then did not even bother to meet me or open serious neogtiations, I have no idea, but I think it is clear that they were attempting to persuade another player to join them.

Obviously, they concluded a deal with the Brazilian (Rivaldo, from Deportivo La Coruña) and therefore did not feel it necessary to talk to me. They did feel the need to explain to their fans why the deal fell through and they did this by calling me greedy. It was convenient for them.

I am not bitter, not angry, not devastated, because I only went to Barcelona out of respect for my club to hear what they had to say. I have said all along that I would only ever leave Liverpool if they no longer wanted me and I stand by that now.

I did not want to join Barcelona, I want to play for Liverpool. I am born and bred in the area and my family all live there. It is the place dearest to me and I am happy there, so the fact that they have not sold me to Barcelona can hardly make me angry.

What has surprised me is the way that the situation developed. I was surprised when Liverpool said they had agreed a fee for me and they would allow me to talk to the Spaniards because, as I am under contract, they could simply have said "no way".

I am even more surprised that a fee was agreed for me when it became increasingly obvious that Barcelona did not, in fact, want to sign me. I am also slightly puzzled that Liverpool then issued a statement suggesting that they have tried and failed to negotiate with me for months.

At the top of the column, I said I want to put the record straight and the truth is that before the Barcelona interest, Liverpool had made only one offer, many months ago, when they talked about the prospect of a new deal. I was called into the manager's office and, after we talked, they wrote some figures on the top of a scrap of paper and handed it to me. My reply was that I was happy with the offer in principle, without commiting myself.

They told me they wanted to talk to my adviser, but there was no further contact with him or with my lawyer. I was happy to leave it because I still had more than two years left on my contract. I wanted to concentrate on the run-in to the end of the season when we were chasing the FA Carling Premiership title and the Cup Winners' Cup.

I have two years left on my contract and I have no reason to do a new deal now. I am more than happy to stay at Liverpool and it seems a natural way to approach discussions with a player who still has two years left on his contract.

What upsets me more than anything else is that the supporters of Liverpool may have been given the impression that I want to leave the club. I hope that every single supporter at Anfield reads this column and understands that I did not want to leave. The fact that Liverpool had talks with Barcelona without my knowledge has nothing to do with me.I am just pleased that I am back at Liverpool. I think the supporters would have been unhappy if I had left and that is an important consideration to me.

Already, I have had lots of contact from the supporters and they are concerned about the situation. I understand how they feel and I must stress again that I am pleased to be back. Under circumstances such as these, there are a lot of half-truths, a lot of misrepresentations and the supporters can get the wrong picture. That is why I have attempted to put the record straight.

Certain papers have accused me of all sorts of things, when they clearly have no idea what happened. That is irresponsible and it is the supporters and myself who suffer.

I will be back in training on Monday and, as far as I am concerned, I am as commited to Liverpool Football Club as I have always been. I am proud to play for Liverpool.

As I have stressed, I am not angry at the events of this week, just a little surprised and puzzled, particularly at the behaviour of Barcelona, but it pays to be philosophical about such things in football and I can offer a guarantee to our supporters that I will not let it affect the way I play for the club.

STEVE MCMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME W	HOME D	HOME L	HOME F	HOME A	AWAY W	AWAY D	AWAY L	AWAY F	AWAY A	LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
1. BLACKBURN ROVERS	2	6	+5	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	2-0-0	W2
2. MANCHESTER UTD	2	6	+3	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	2-0-0	W2
3. WEST HAM UTD	2	6	+2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	2-0-0	W2
4. LEICESTER CITY	2	6	+2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	2-0-0	W2
5. LEEDS UTD	2	4	+2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	1	1-1-0	W1
6. ARSENAL	2	4	+2	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	1-1-0	W1
7. NEWCASTLE UTD	1	3	+1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1-0-0	W1
8. BOLTON WANDERERS	1	3	+1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1-0-0	W1
9. BARNSLEY	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	1-0-1	W1
=. CRYSTAL PALACE	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	1-0-1	L1
11. COVENTRY CITY	2	3	-1	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	2	1-0-1	L1
12. WIMBLEDON	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0-1-0	D1
13. LIVERPOOL	2	1	-1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	0-1-1	L1
13. CHELSEA	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0-0-1	L1
15. EVERTON	1	0	-1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0-0-1	L1
16. DERBY COUNTY	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0-0-1	L1
17. SOUTHAMPTON	2	0	-2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0-0-2	L2
18. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	2	0	-3	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	2	0-0-2	L2
19. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	2	0	-3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	0-0-2	L2
20. ASTON VILLA	2	0	-5	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0-0-2	L2

ATTACK

Goals scored		Avge
1. Blackburn	5	2.50
2. Leeds Utd	4	2.00
=. West Ham	4	2.00
4. Chelsea	2	2.00
=. Newcastle	2	2.00
6. Arsenal	3	1.50
=. Coventry	3	1.50
=. Leicester	3	1.50
=. Manchester Utd	3	1.50
10. Barnsley	2	1.00
=. Crystal Palace	2	1.00
=. Liverpool	2	1.00
=. Sheffield Wed	2	1.00
14. Bolton	1	1.00
=. Everton	1	1.00
=. Wimbledon	1	1.00
17. Tottenham	1	0.50
18. Aston Villa	0	0.00
=. Derby	0	0.00
=. Southampton	0	0.00

DEFENCE

Goals conceded		Avge
1. Chelsea	3	3.00
2. Aston Villa	5	2.50
=. Sheffield Wed	5	2.50
4. Coventry	4	2.00
=. Tottenham	4	2.00
5. Everton	2	2.00
6. Liverpool	3	1.50
7. Crystal Palace	2	1.00
=. Leeds Utd	2	1.00
=. Southampton	2	1.00
=. West Ham	2	1.00
11. Derby	1	1.00
=. Newcastle	1	1.00
=. Wimbledon	1	1.00
14. Arsenal	1	0.50
=. Barnsley	1	0.50
=. Leicester	1	0.50
18. Blackburn	0	0.00
=. Bolton	0	0.00
=. Manchester Utd	0	0.00

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	2	1
Aston Villa	0	0
Barnsley	1	1
Blackburn	4	1
Bolton	1	0
Chelsea	1	1
Coventry	1	2
Crystal Palace	1	1
Derby	0	0
Everton	0	1
Leeds Utd	3	1
Leicester	2	1
Liverpool	0	2
Manchester Utd	0	3
Newcastle	1	1
Sheffield Wed.	1	1
Southampton	0	0
Tottenham	0	1
West Ham	1	3
Wimbledon	0	1

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Sheffield Wed	7	0
2. C Palace	6	0
3. Arsenal	5	0
=. Manchester Utd:	5	0
=. Wimbledon	5	0
6. Blackburn	4	0
=. Coventry	4	0
=. Leeds Utd	4	0
=. Tottenham	4	0
10. Chelsea	3	0
=. West Ham	3	0
12. Bolton	2	0
=. Everton	2	0
=. Leicester	2	0
=. Liverpool	2	0
=. Southampton	2	0
17. Aston Villa	1	0
=. Barnsley	1	0
=. Newcastle	1	0
20. Derby	0	0

TOP TRANSFERS

BIGGEST DEAL

Juninho (Atlético Madrid)	£12m

PREMIERSHIP — INCOMING

M Overmars (Arsenal)	£7m
S Collymore (Aston Villa)	£7m
L Ferdinand (Tottenham)	£6m
G Le Saux (Chelsea)	£5m
H Berg (Man Utd)	£5m
S Bilic (Everton)	£4.5m
P Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	£4.5m
A Pistone (Newcastle)	£4.3m
P Ince (Liverpool)	£4.2m
E Petit (Arsenal)	£3.5m
O Leonhardsen (Liverpool)	£3.5m
E Sheringham (Man Utd)	£3.5m
D Hopkin (Leeds)	£3.25m
S Henchoz (Blackburn)	£3m
D Ginola (Tottenham)	£2.6m
M Dahlin (Blackburn)	£2.5m
J D Tomasson (Newcastle)	£2.5m
C Babayaro (Chelsea)	£2.25m
E de Goey (Chelsea)	£2.25m
R Elliott (Bolton)	£2.2m
J F Hasselbaink (Leeds)	£2m
A I Haaland (Leeds)	£2m
K Riedle (Liverpool)	£1.8m
P Blondeau (Sheffield Wed)	£1.8m
E Berkovic (West Ham)	£1.75m
L Boa Morte (Arsenal)	£1.75m
A Lombardo (C Palace)	£1.6m
J Dominguez (Tottenham)	£1.6m
N Cox (Bolton)	£1.5m
J Oster (Everton)	£1.5m
E Nevland (Man Utd)	£1.5m
D Murphy (Liverpool)	£1.5m
K Miller (C Palace)	£1.5m
B Lambourde (Chelsea)	£1.5m
G Grimandi (Arsenal)	£1.5m
G Hristov (Barnsley)	£1.5m
S Given (Newcastle)	£1.5m

PREMIERSHIP — OUTGOING

P Merson (Arsenal)	£4.5m
C Burley (Chelsea)	£2.5m
L Clark (Newcastle)	£2.5m
P Ndlovu (Coventry)	£1.75m
B Deane (Leeds)	£1.5m
R Blinker (Sheffield Wed)	£1.5m

FREE TRANSFERS

C Wreh (Arsenal); P Valery (Blackburn); G Poyet (Chelsea); M Johansen (Coventry); S Eranio (Derby); J Barnes, P Kelly, T Ketsbaia, S Pearce (Newcastle); D Terrier (West Ham).

PLAYERS IN

	UK	Other
Arsenal	2	8
Aston Villa	2	0
Barnsley	1	4
Blackburn	0	5
Bolton	2	1
Chelsea	1	5
Coventry	2	4
Crystal Palace	4	2
Derby	2	2
Everton	3	1
Leeds Utd	3	3
Leicester	3	0
Liverpool	2	2
Manchester Utd	1	2
Newcastle	4	4
Sheffield Wednesday	0	2
Southampton	3	1
Tottenham	1	2
West Ham	2	2
Wimbledon	1	0

PLAYERS OUT

	UK	Other
Arsenal	5	0
Aston Villa	1	0
Barnsley	0	0
Blackburn	5	1
Bolton	2	1
Chelsea	2	1
Coventry	2	2
Crystal Palace	4	0
Derby	5	0
Everton	0	1
Leeds Utd	3	0
Leicester	4	0
Liverpool	3	0
Manchester Utd	5	0
Newcastle	3	0
Sheffield Wednesday	1	2
Southampton	2	1
Tottenham	3	0
West Ham	0	1
Wimbledon	2	1

SPENDING

Transfers	Cost £
1. Arsenal	16,250,000+
2. Chelsea	11,300,000
3. Liverpool	11,000,000
4. Manchester Utd	10,000,000
5. Tottenham	9,600,000
6. Aston Villa	8,350,000
7. Leeds Utd	8,250,000
8. Newcastle	7,300,000
9. Everton	7,100,000
10. Sheffield Wed	6,300,000
11. Blackburn	6,200,000
12. Crystal Palace	4,350,000+
13. Bolton	3,800,000
14. Barnsley	3,650,000
15. West Ham	3,450,000
16. Southampton	2,800,000
17. Coventry	2,300,000
18. Leicester	2,100,000
19. Derby	2,050,000
20. Wimbledon	400,000

INTERNET

Official site	Web address
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	—
Barnsley	—
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets

Nationwide League
First division

(1) Charlton v Oxford Utd
(2) * Crewe v West Bromwich
(3) Portsmouth v Port Vale
(4) * Reading v Swindon
(5) Stockport v Bury
(-) Wolverhampton v Sheffield Utd

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Oxford Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Sheffield Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Swindon	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Wolves	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
* Bradford	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Middlesbro	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
West Brom	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
* Nottm For	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
* Man City	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Portsmouth	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Bury	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Reading	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ipswich	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
* QPR	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Charlton	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Stockport	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
* Tranmere	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Port Vale	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Crewe	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Huddersfield	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
* Norwich	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
* Stoke	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
* Sunderland	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

* not including last night's matches

Second division

(6) Bournemouth v Wigan
(7) Brentford v Chesterfield
(8) Bristol City v Blackpool
(9) Burnley v Gillingham
(10) Carlisle v Watford
(11) Plymouth v Grimsby
(12) Preston v Millwall
(13) Walsall v Fulham
(—) Wrexham v Oldham
(14) Wycombe v Northampton
(15) York v Bristol Rovers

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	1	1	0	0	5	2	3
Millwall	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Chesterfield	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Oldham	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Bournemouth	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Blackpool	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Fulham	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Watford	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bristol City	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Bristol Rovers	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Carlisle	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Grimsby	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Plymouth	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Southend	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Gillingham	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Preston	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Wycombe	1	0	0	1	2	5	0
Walsall	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
York	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Burnley	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Luton	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Wrexham	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Northampton	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Brentford	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Third division

(16) Barnet v Exeter
(17) Brighton v Macclesfield
(18) Cambridge Utd v Rotherham
(19) Cardiff v Chester P
(20) Doncaster v Peterborough
(21) Hartlepool v Colchester
(22) Hull v Notts County
(23) Lincoln v Shrewsbury
(24) Rochdale v Mansfield
(25) Scunthorpe v Leyton Orient
(26) Torquay v Scarborough

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barnet	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Chester	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Mansfield	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Colchester	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Macclesfield	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Notts County	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Shrewsbury	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Cardiff	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Scarborough	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Scunthorpe	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Swansea	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Exeter	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Hartlepool	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Rotherham	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Darlington	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Doncaster	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Rochdale	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Torquay	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Brighton	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Camb Utd	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
L Orient	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Peterborough	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Hull	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Lincoln	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Vauxhall Conference

(27) Dover v Cheltenham
(28) Gateshead v Farnborough
(29) Hayes v Halifax
(30) Hereford v Welling
(31) Kettering v Slough (3.15)
(—) Morecambe v Leek
(—) Rushden & D v Northwich
(—) Southport v Hednesford
(—) Stalybridge v Kidderminster
(—) Woking v Telford
(—) Yeovil v Stevenage

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(32) Celtic v Dunfermline
(33) Hearts v Aberdeen
(34) Motherwell v St Johnstone

First division

(35) Falkirk v Ayr
(36) Greenock Morton v Hamilton
(37) Partick v Dundee
(38) Raith v Airdrie
(39) St Mirren v Stirling

Second division

(40) Brechin v Inverness CT
(41) Clyde v Forfar
(42) East Fife v Stenhousemuir
(43) Livingston v Stranraer
(44) Queen of South v Clydebank

Third division

(45) Albion v Berwick
(46) Alloa v Cowdenbeath
(47) Arbroath v East Stirling
(48) Dumbarton v Montrose
(49) Ross County v Queen's Park

TOMORROW

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

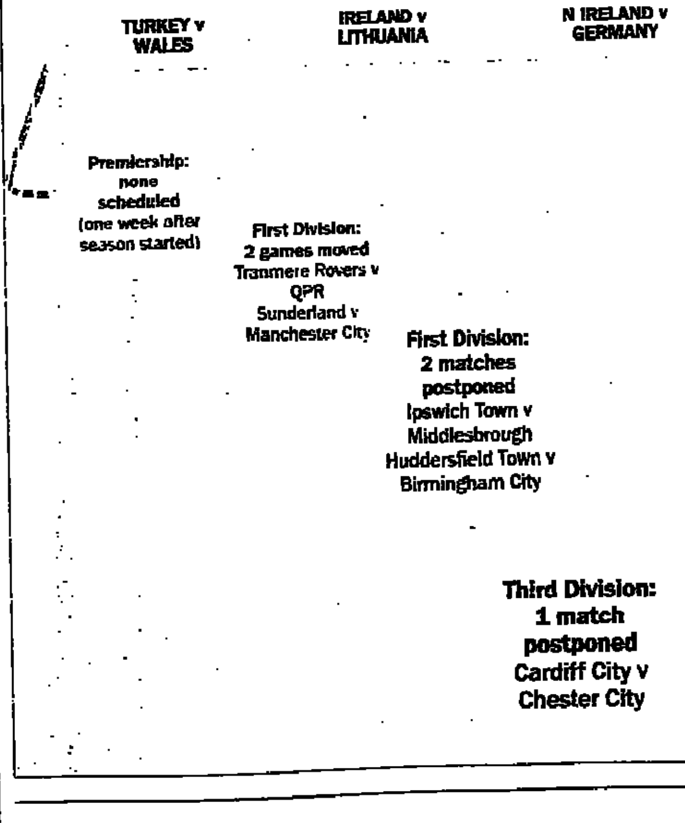
Dundee Utd v Hibernian (4.0)

TELEVISION DETAILS

BBC1: Today: Football Focus in *Grandstand*, 12.20pm.

Sky Sports 1: Today: Sports Saturday Results Service, from 3.30pm. Tomorrow: Dundee United v Hibernian (live), from 3.30pm.

THE FAR CORNER: THE INTERNATIONAL REBOUND


TURKEY v WALES
IRELAND v LITHUANIA
N IRELAND v GERMANY
Premiership: none scheduled (one week after season started)
First Division: 2 games moved Tranmere Rovers v QPR Sunderland v Manchester City
First Division: 2 matches postponed Ipswich Town v Middlesbrough Huddersfield Town v Birmingham City
Third Division: 1 match postponed Cardiff City v Chester City

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

European outlook clouded by concern

By Kevin McCarra

THE hush that fell over Scottish football yesterday was appropriate for a period of mourning. The most troubling of the poor results in Europe was suffered by Rangers and, after that 3-0 defeat by IFK Gothenburg in the European Cup, they seemed not only to be grieving, but also to have withdrawn from public life.

Their chairman, David Murray, was, however, willing to confirm that Walter Smith, the manager, will not be dismissed. The absence of wider comment from Rangers stemmed from the fact that they have no match this weekend, since their game at Kilmarnock was postponed due to the absence of several players on international duty. It is also right, however, that the leading Bell's Scottish League premier division clubs should have little to say for themselves.

Kilmarnock were the only one of the four representatives to succeed in Europe and a 2-1 victory over Shelbourne at Rugby Park in the Cup-Winners' Cup, with the winner arriving in injury time, can barely be passed off as a renaissance. Dundee United are also left to brood, having failed to score an away goal in Turkey and so giving Trabzonspor a 1-0 advantage to carry into the second leg.

Celtic, by all accounts, should be rather shamed by a 2-1 defeat against Tirol Innsbruck in Austria. While giving them a sound chance of reaching the first round in the Uefa Cup, it also disguised the low quality of their performance. Elevating the standards, at home to Dunfermline Athletic, may prove awkward, with Stephane Mahe, Morten Wieghorst and Alan Stubbs all likely to be absent through injury.

There are no new signings at the club either. The deadline for registering players for the next round of the Uefa Cup has passed and neither Marc Rieper, of West Ham United, nor Paolo Alves, of Sporting Lisbon, has yet been signed. Jorge Cadete, who is at home in Lisbon and reportedly suffering from depression, has been linked with a move to the Spanish club, Celta Vigo.

For once, it is Scotland's less prominent clubs who are in the grip of high spirits. Hibernian sound especially brash, given that they required a play-off to avoid relegation. A few new signings and a win over Celtic on the opening day of the season have been stimulating.

There is an endearing quality about Hibernian in their readiness to place their trust in the inherently unreliable. Chic Charnley is 34 and has been sent off 15 times in Scotland alone, but Jim Duffy, the manager at Easter Road, never hesitated to make him the mainspring of the side.

The midfield player struck the winner against Celtic and contrived to score from 50 yards against Alloa, in the Coca-Cola Cup, last weekend. However, Dundee United, tomorrow's opponents, are adept at neutralising the opposition's dangers and the true worth of the flair possessed by men such as Charnley and Tony Rougier will be examined at Tannadice. In this game, Hibernian may find a reliable indication of their prospects this season.

These are weeks, however, when every club is carrying out self-assessment. Having been overwhelmed at times against Rangers at Ibrox, Heart of Midlothian should find a more suitable yardstick in this afternoon's fixture with Aberdeen at Tynecastle. The visitors have had an adventurous summer in the transfer market and although a few newcomers are injured at present, a revival is anticipated. Yet, after the goalless game against Kilmarnock, supporters will be eager for evidence that the return of Eoin Jess has brought greater menace to the side.

Motherwell, should they defeat St Johnstone at Fir Park today, will take over the leadership of the premier division. In early August, such a position may have no concrete value, but encouragement such as this is still welcome at a club that had been numbered among the candidates for relegation.

Non-league preview 40
Hateley at Hull 44
Steve McManaman 45

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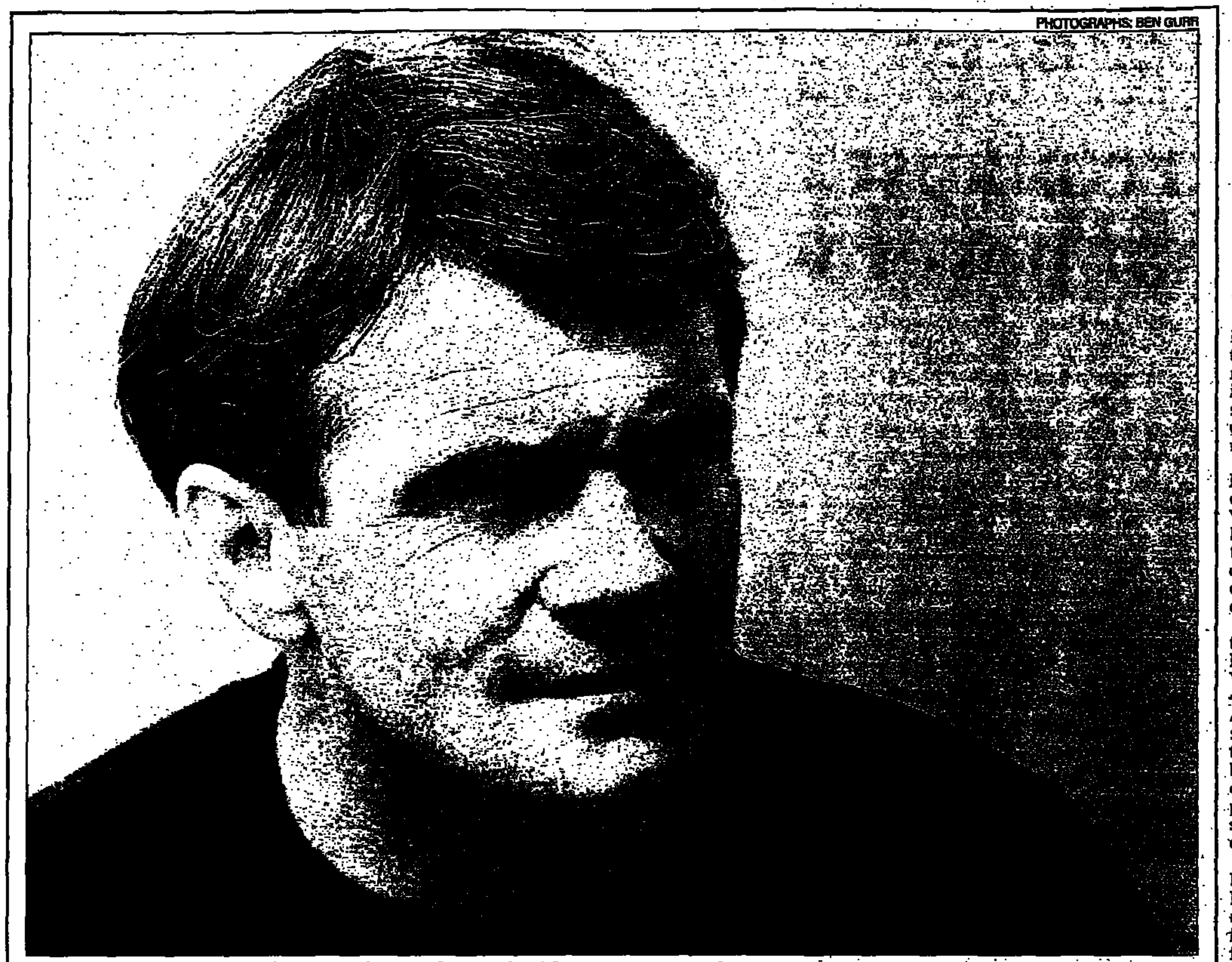


PHOTOGRAPHS: BEN GURR

Houghton will be looking to put the experience gained from 18 years as a player to good use at Elm Park, on and off the pitch

Houghton adds words to action

Russell Kempson meets an Ireland international relishing his dual role in the first division

Instead of sitting and relaxing on the grass, after an up-tempo training session in the midday sun, Ray Houghton stands and holds court. He talks to those lounging before him and imparts a smidgeon of the knowledge gleaned from 18 years in the game. Houghton is still the player, but now also the coach. His team-mates listen intently to the calm yet authoritative Glaswegian brogue.

Houghton, 35, is with his seventh club — Reading, of the Nationwide League first division — and is easing into his new role since being released by Crystal Palace during the summer. He felt he still had much to offer Palace for their FA Carling Premiership campaign, but, on returning from holiday in Portugal, he discovered that he was unwanted and unemployed.

Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, had been trying to reach him at his home in Loughton, Essex, but had spoken only to the answering machine. "I eventually got the message, rang Steve and that was it," Houghton said. "It was a bit of a shock at first. I'd played in the top flight for ten years and I thought that my experience would help. Obviously, that wasn't the case."

Ray Lewington, Palace's first-team coach, offered more positive advice. Terry Bullivant, a mutual friend, had moved from Barnet to Reading in the close season. He suggested that Houghton contact him, which he did, and visions of the dole queue swiftly evaporated.

Elm Park's long-awaited backroom revamp had finally materialised, comprising Bullivant, the manager, Allan Harris, his assistant and former No 2 to Terry Venables at Barcelona, Houghton, the player-coach, and Alan Pardew, the reserve team coach and former Palace player. They have been charged with securing first-division survival during the final term at Elm Park and safe passage to a new multipurpose stadium on the edge of town. It could be a considerable task.

"I'd been thinking of getting into coaching for some time," Houghton said. "I did a little bit, I got a taste for it, when Dave Bassett was managing at Palace. I'd speak my mind, in the dressing-room before or during a game, if I saw something wasn't right or noticed something that was relevant.

"This is a great chance for me and I'm enjoying it. Having not done it properly before, you never know exactly what you've got to do, but the other guys make it easy. They just tell me to go and do what I want, to do what feels right."

Born in Glasgow, of Scottish-Irish parentage, Houghton left for England at ten years old. Trials with Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers proved brief and, at 16, he started work for J & B Whisky in London as a clerk, despatching the amber nectar to all parts of the United States.

Three years with West Ham United produced one appearance as a substitute, but success was only a characteristically short, scurrying step away. With Fulham, he missed promotion to the old first division in the last game of the season; with Oxford United, he made his first appearance at Wembley when they won the Milk Cup in 1986.

He collected four winners' medals with Liverpool — two in the championship, two in the FA Cup — and helped Aston Villa lift the Coca-Cola Cup in 1994. Palace also benefited from his midfield industry, when they returned to the Premiership via the play-offs last season.

Ireland holds special memories, too. He scored the goal — his first of five in 69 internationals — when they defeated England 1-0 in Stuttgart in the 1988 European championship finals. "To score against England was something I'd always dreamt about," he said with a smile, momentarily betraying his true heritage.

A year later, he was afforded a hero's welcome by the inhabitants of Buncrana, Co Donegal, where his father, James, had been brought up. "They just wanted to say well done and thank me for the goal," he said. "They held a civic reception and thousands of people turned up, with flags flying and bands playing. Dad hadn't been there for years and it was nice for him to go back. Not long after, he died."

Another Houghton goal secured a 1-0 victory against Italy in Giants Stadium, New York, in the 1994 World Cup finals and he relishes the prospect of Ireland again reaching the concluding stages of the tournament in France next year. Beating Lithuania on Wednesday, in a qualifying match in Dublin, would help the cause.

"Coming to Reading was a bit of a culture shock at first," he said. "You're used to playing with so many top-class players and it's a real eye-opener, but the attitude of everyone here is excellent and if we don't succeed, it won't be through the lack of trying. Everyone wants to learn, listen and do well."

The new player-coach leads a warm-up session before training

Little forced to rethink after Villa's calamitous first week

By Richard Hobson

IT SOUNDS so simple. Solidity at the back established, Brian Little merely had to strengthen his attacking force to mould Aston Villa into a side that could make a realistic challenge for the FA Carling Premiership title.

After their worst start for 15 years, however, the break this weekend could not come at a better time for the Villa manager. Successive defeats leave them bottom of the table and the goals against column — five conceded — is at least as great a concern as the failure to score in each of the first two matches.

The team, 3-0 down, was booed off the field at Villa Park after the first half against Blackburn Rovers on Wednesday night and the eventual 4-0 defeat was their heaviest since April 1995. While it is too early in the season to talk of decline and failure, the modern world of top-level football, with its lucrative rewards, demands prompt solutions when problems arise. There is rarely the scope for a step backwards in the quest to stride ever forwards.

In the period before Villa face Newcastle United next Saturday, Little must decide whether to continue with his ambitious three-man forward line or revert to the 3-5-2 formation that has enabled Uefa Cup qualification in each of the past two seasons. "Perhaps there is a need to get back to a system which has brought us some degree of success," Little said.

Yet a feeling emerged towards the end of last season that opponents, at least the best of them, had become comfortable against the "old" Villa. Little said on the eve of the season that flexibility was now the key to his side's development. He could not have anticipated that the defence — the second-meanest behind Arsenal over the past two seasons — would begin to struggle.

A section of supporters are unhappy at a lack of transfer activity over the summer after a stock exchange flotation in May that raised £15 million. Other than Stan Collymore, a predictable acquisition, the only fresh face is that of a fringe player, Simon Grayson. Contrast this with the activity at Liverpool, Newcastle and Arsenal, three of the four clubs who finished above Villa last season.

Mark Draper, the most creative of their midfield players, has endured a lean year and was fortunate to play ahead of Ian Taylor against Blackburn. Ugo Ehiogu, who Little insists is fully fit, has appeared particularly hesitant in a four-man defence, while the new system has offered far less scope for Alan Wright to roam the left flank.

Collymore has made a subdued introduction to his new club. This is, perhaps, not surprising as he had never played in a three-man attack before the opening day of the season against Leicester City. Against Newcastle, he can expect to partner Dwight Yorke in a more orthodox front line with Savo Milosevic likely to drop out.

"We do not often lose two games in a row, so we have to take stock and be sensible," Little said. "People think they feel worse than everybody else, but I can tell them nobody feels worse than me at the moment. It is my responsibility and I am not going to hide from it. I will learn quickly and try to do what is right over the next few days."

Spackman takes over as supporters get their way

By Russell Kempson

NIGEL SPACKMAN, the former Chelsea, Liverpool and Rangers midfield player, was not the most popular member of Sheffield United's Nationwide League first division squad last season. Many of his 24 league appearances were blighted by taunting from disenchanted United supporters. Yesterday, when he was appointed to succeed Howard Kendall as manager at Bramall Lane, not a dissenting voice was heard.

Spackman, 36, took over in a caretaker capacity in June, when Kendall departed for the FA Carling Premiership and a third stint with Everton. Although fans were initially wary of his effective promotion from assistant manager, they were gradually won over during the summer.

United made a successful pre-season tour to Norway and have beaten Sunderland 2-0 in the league and drawn 1-1 with Wrexham in the Coca-Cola Cup first round since the season started. The club has apparently been inundated with letters and faxes, all requesting that Spackman should be given the job.

"I'd never had stick from a crowd before I came here and it was disappointing," Spackman, who has signed a three-year contract, said. "There was a time when I thought I might be better off elsewhere. You sometimes think: 'What am I putting myself through this for?' You feel you could easily turn your back on it, but I have never walked away from anything in my career and, hopefully, I won't in the future.

"In the end, it's down to fan power if you get a job or not. If things hadn't gone well in pre-season and we hadn't had a good result against Sunderland, then a more experienced manager would probably be here. If the fans get behind the team and don't boo them as they booed me, then we can be successful together."

United, who were beaten by Crystal Palace in the first division play-off final last season, resume their league campaign against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux. Although Wolves have won both their opening matches 2-0, against Norwich City and Queens Park Rangers, Mark McGhee, their manager, expects to experience a more challenging task this afternoon.

"United are a big, strong side, probably more powerful than we are, so we will need to pass the ball well," McGhee said. "They were very unlucky not to go up last season and I think they will be strong candidates again."

Stockport County, who have lost their first two matches, open their Edgeley Park campaign against Bury, the team that pipped them to the second division title last season. Gary Megson, the Stockport manager, will play his four new signings — Martin McIntosh, Ian Gray, Colin Woodthorpe and Vassilios Kaligeracos.

Reading play Swindon Town at Elm Park, with Carl Asaba, their recent £800,000 capture from Brentford, making his home league debut, while Portsmouth include Matthias Svensson, their Swedish striker, against Port Vale at Fratton Park. He has recovered from a leg injury.

Crewe Alexandra, already beaten twice this season, take on West Bromwich Albion at Gresty Road and Charlton Athletic play Oxford United at The Valley. Dean Purse, the Oxford centre back, deputises for Phil Whelan, who is injured.

Bilic snaps up chance and proves that it's good to talk

Off the line by Russell Kempson

SLAVEN BILIC still insists that his summer move from West Ham United to Everton was all about ambition, not money, yet the elegant central defender retains a keen eye for the half-chance. When attending a photo-call for Everton's new sponsors — One 2 One, the mobile phone company — he was asked to hold the firm's product to his ear and engage in mock conversation. "Be more realistic," the snapper enthused. "Great stuff." It was later discovered that Bilic had spent five minutes chatting to his mother in Croatia.

PUBLIC relations persons — they of the sharp suits, cheesey smiles and solid handshakes — play an increasing role in modern-day football, bringing the latest news to Joe Soap and his cheap-seat comrades in the most palatable manner. Even humble Chester City have employed PR experts, though Mark Guterman, the chairman at Deva Stadium, was not entirely impressed with their initial press release. His name was spelt with two Ts.

MOHAMED AL FAYED, owner of Harrods and the chairman of Fulham, could be excused for being preoccupied with family matters of late, but he put on a brave, optimistic face at Craven Cottage last weekend. "Football is my passion," he said. "We will be in the Premiership in three years." One female fan, though grateful for Al Fayed's £30 million takeover, still had reservations. "Yeah, he's fantastic," she drooled, "but I do miss Jimmy Hill."

CLUBS will try anything to entice clients to their grounds on match days, ranging from attractive deals for little Johnny to become a mascot, to less appealing sponsor-a-jockstrap schemes. When it comes to corporate hospitality — luring in those with the real lucre — Coventry City cannot stand accused of being bland or boring. Last season, Highfield Road's high-rollers were promised: "Punch on Arrival."

FOOTBALLING mementoes come in all shapes and sizes and now you, too, can own your very own "Glorafilia Needlepoint" cushion, with your favourite club tastefully stitched into it. It is the brainchild of Jennifer Berman, of Mill Hill Village, London, and although Steve McManaman has had to hastily cancel his Barcelona order, business is expected to be brisk. Even at £49.50 a cushion, no self-respecting sofa should be without one.

IT IS early days yet, of course, but many pre-season pundits already have a large smattering of egg on face. Blackburn Rovers at the top of the FA Carling Premiership? Aston Villa pointless, goalless, and bottom? Leicester City winning at Liverpool? Perhaps Ken Bates, the irascible Chelsea chairman, got it right by declining to gaze into his Premiership crystal ball. "I don't like those silly predictions," he said. "If you say you're going to win it, you look arrogant. If you don't, you look a prat. I'd rather be neither."

STRANGE BUT TRUE ... New Balance, the football footwear firm, uses synthetic snake and kangaroo in its boots.

GOLF: FALDO AND MONTGOMERIE STRUGGLING TO MAKE HALFWAY CUT AT US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Rocca flies the flag for Europe

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN MARMONECK, NEW YORK

OSTANTINO Rocca upheld e honour of European golf in e second round of the US GA Championship at inged Foot golf club. It has en a difficult ten weeks for occa, who injured a shoulder ting a suitcase in mid-June d aggravated the injury ter. Still, a second successive und of 69 for a 36-hole total 138, two under par, gave the alian good reason to smile d, after signing his card, he sappeared into the grey-one clubhouse in search of a wl of pasta.

Rocca did not want to talk out his shoulder, as if inking about it might injure it. Suffice to say that he els better now than he has at y time since May. This is od news for the Europe yder Cup team. It needs a ayer as technically sound d as good a ball striker as occa is. He could not have ped with having to play ongside Tiger Woods in the st round of the Masters if his chnique or mental strength ere anything less than und.

The way that Rocca has ack the ball here suggests it s shoulder injury is no nger worrying him. He has issed only three fairways in is two rounds — accurate olf, indeed, on a course as ght and as demanding from e tee as this one. Clearly, too, is iron-play is as sharp as a ck. On the short 10th, occa's six-iron ended five feet om the flagstick. On the 17th, e hit a six-iron to 15 feet for is second birdie of the inward alf and then, bringing his ound to a crescendo, he hit a ve-iron from 184 yards to the ifficult, tilted 18th green and e ball rolled to within five et of the flag.

All this and a Rocca putt, too a putt like the one that he oled at St Andrews to tie with ohn Daly in the 1995 Open. That was 20 yards uphill and own dale. This one, on the th green, where Colin Montgomerie would later take three utts, looked to be even longer. Rocca thought it was. "This one was more long," he said in his engaging English.

Also finishing on 138 were Phil Blackmar and Jeff Maggert, one of the most consistent players on the US Tour. Maggert got to four under par after the 14th, but then dropped strokes on the next two holes, which was what everybody was doing. The secret was not to be put off and to recover with a birdie as soon as possible.

Byron Nelson, the 85-year-old former US PGA champion, had some relevant advice on this for Justin Leonard, the 25-year-old Open champion. "On this course, you're going to make bogeys and so is everybody else," Nelson said to his fellow Texan. "When you hit it in the rough, just get it down there to where you've got an eight or nine-iron in your hands. Avoid making the big mistake."

This was what Daly had done in his first round, but it was not what Sam Torrance did at the start of his second. His pitch to the first green looked fine in the air. He glanced down at his divot, handed his club back to his caddie and then heard a gasp from the spectators. His ball had just failed to climb over a ridge in the green and was rolling back towards him. It set the tone for Torrance's round of 72, which left him worrying whether his six-over-par 146 would be good enough to beat the cut.

Something similar happened to Montgomerie on the first green. Trying to make up some of the ground that he had lost after a 74 on Thursday, Montgomerie's ball was 18 feet above the flag after two strokes, 30 feet away and below the hole after three. He dropped only one shot there and, somehow, avoided dropping any more at the next two holes.

There has been a frailty about Montgomerie, though, since the US Open. At Troon during the Open, it was his driving that let him down and, no sooner had he got himself back on track yesterday with four successive birdies, than he took two strokes to get out of a bunker on the 8th for a six and then took three putts for another six on the 9th.

Montgomerie's struggles were being mirrored by every other European competitor. In the first round, the ten leading candidates for the United States Ryder Cup team had an aggregate of two under par: Europe's ten were 26 over par. Just as well that the Ryder Cup is matchplay and not strokeplay.

Nick Faldo needed to win this tournament to have any chance of qualifying for Valderrama. At ten over par after 27 holes, he was not only out of contention here, but also for Spain in September — unless he is awarded a wild-card selection.

No sooner had Montgomerie signed for a 71 that put him on 145, five over par, than there was a sudden surge of spectators. For once he was not at the centre of it. It was as well that he did not argue because the man at the centre of all this attention was Evander Holyfield, the world heavyweight boxing champion.

CRAIG JONES / ALLSPORT

Montgomerie feels the strain after a second-round 71 yesterday and a long wait to see if he beats the cut

DETAILS FROM NEW YORK

United States unless stated

EARLY LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS: 138: C Rocca (It) 69, 69; J Maggert 69, 69; P Blackmar 70, 68. 139: P Stankowski 68, 71. 141: J Furyk 69, 72; Lee Rinker 70, 71. 142: M O'Meara 69, 73; M Bradley 73, 69; J Cook 71, 71. 143: O Browne 70, 73; B Mayfair 75 68; S Hoch 71, 72; J Sindelar 72, 71. 145: Y Kaneko (Japan) 72, 73; F Funk 71, 74. 146: S Torrance (GB) 74, 72; P Jacobsen 74, 72; L Nelson 76, 70. 147: B Boyd 71, 76. 148: G Day 76, 72; C Parry (Aus) 74, 74. 149: C Toulson 75, 74; M Brooks 70, 79. 150: J Stone 75, 75; J Nicklaus 74, 76. 152: J M Olazábal (Sp) 79, 73. 153: B Zabriski 76, 77. 155: P Oakley 78, 77; G Boros 74, 81; B Watts 78, 77. 158: J Mason 78, 80. 163: M Fuller 79, 84. Withdrew: M Wiebe

FIRST-ROUND SCORES: 66: J Daly, D Love. 67: R Allenby (Aus). 68: R Tway, P Azinger, J Leonard, T Kite, C Perry, P Stankowski, S Maruyama (Japan), G Norman (Aus). 69: D Martin, P Mickelson, L Janzen, T Byrum, M O'Meara, C Rocca (It), J Furyk, J Maggert, S Jones, T Lehman, C Franco (Par). 70: I Garrido (Sp), P Goydos, P Stewart, T Woods, E Els (SA), D Duval, O Browne, Lee Rinker, P Blackmar, M Brooks. 71: A Magee, T Watson, F Couples, L Mize, J Haas, J Mazza, B Boyd, F Funk, J Cook, Y Kaneko (Japan), E Romero (Arg), M Calcavecchia, T Smith. 72: R Philo, L Mattiace, C Stadler, F Nobilo (NZ), S Elkington (Aus), T Herron, N Price (Zim), R Cochran, L Wadkins, D Pooley, W Andrade, S Hoch, J Sindelar, R Fehr, S Lowery, R Goosen (SA), T Bjorn (Den), J Lankford. 73: K Sutherland, P-U Johansson (Swe), B Faxon, K Triplett, V Singh (Fiji), J Carter, J D Blake, M Bradley, H Irwin, F Zoeller, B Langer (Ger), S Stricker, D Toms, K Perry, J Lee, B Sowards. 74: D Clarke (GB), D Waldorf, C Rose, D Hart, L Westwood (GB), J Sluman, B Henninger, S Torrance (GB), G Boros, C Parry (Aus), P Jacobsen, S McCarron, J Nicklaus, C Montgomerie (GB), D Ogrin, P Broadhurst (GB), R Gamez, B Ford. 75: M Brisky, N Faldo (GB), S Appleby (Aus), N Ozaki (Japan), T Tolles, M Hulbert, S Schneiter, C Toulson, J Stone, B Mayfair, P Lonard (Aus). 76: J Hickson, M Standly, P Jordan, R Black, E Fiori, J Parnevik (Swe), C Strange, R Damron, K Gibson, G Day, B Zabriski, L Nelson, L Roberts, B R Brown, D Frost (Rsa), S Cink, S Kelly, C Tucker. 77: B Chamblee, B Crenshaw, I Woosnam (GB), M Burke, J Overton, M Wiebe, P Harrington (Ire). 78: R Wilkin, H Sutton, J Mahaffy, J Mason, P Oakley, B Watts. 79: W Grady (Aus), D Kestner, M Fuller, J M Olazábal (Sp), J Paesani, M Makowski. 80: F Dobbs, F Minoza (Phil). 81: J Kelly. 82: B Taylor, J White.

IN BRIEF

Smith fails in attempt to enter butterfly

MICHELLE SMITH, Ireland's triple Olympic champion, has been denied a late entry into the 100 metres butterfly at the European swimming championships, which start in Seville on Tuesday (Craig Lord writes). Smith, 27, caused controversy before the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year when she improved her best time by 17sec in a 400 metres freestyle time-trial just a fortnight before the Games to leap from outside the world's top 150 in the event to the second-fastest.

The International Olympic Committee allowed her a late entry, despite an American protest, and Smith went on to win the title. Smith applied for a late entry to the 100 metres butterfly in Seville, after setting the European short-course record over 200 metres butterfly in Ireland last weekend. However, the European Swimming League has rejected the request.

☐ Mike Fibbens, the freestyle sprinter, will not join the British team in Seville after injuring a shoulder at work last week.

Davis triumphs

Shooting: Neil Davis, of Wimbledon Park Rifle Club, won the Grand Aggregate, the overall championship of the National Smallbore Rifle Association meeting at Bisly yesterday. He finished three points ahead of Bill Brown, of Chobham, and four ahead of Keith Rowland, from Bristol.

White in final

Snooker: Jimmy White, attempting to rebound positively from the worst season of his career, reached the final of the Riley's Super Star International, in Guingzhou, China, yesterday by beating Ken Doherty, the world champion, 4-0. In today's final, White meets Ronnie O'Sullivan, who beat Guo Hua, the China No 1, 4-1.

Harland second

Modern pentathlon: Georgina Harland, from Canterbury, won the individual silver medal at the world junior modern pentathlon championships in Bask Bystrica, Slovakia, on Thursday. Harland scored 5,137 points in finishing behind Zsuzsa Voros, from Hungary, who won with 5,274.

Spaniard wins

Golf: Sergio Garcia, 17, of Spain, won the British boys' open amateur championship at Saunton, north Devon, yesterday with a 6 and 5 victory in the 18-hole final over Richard Jones, 17, from Harborne in the West Midlands.

Cooke to captain

Table tennis: Alan Cooke, 31, the three-times national champion from Chesterfield, has been chosen to captain England in their opening European League match against Denmark, at St Austell on October 2.

Offiah says no

Rugby union: Harlequins have failed in a late attempt to persuade Martin Offiah, the former Bedford wing, to sign for them this season. The former England rugby league international announced yesterday that he was retiring from the 15-man code.

ATHLETICS

Chambers is quick to show his gratitude

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

SALLY GUNNELL yesterday withdrew injured from the meeting that would have marked her last competitive appearance in London, but the young man on whom much depends for the future of the sport in Britain was showing no sign of wilting. Dwain Chambers has set himself a double challenge this weekend.

Any 19-year-old about to sample his first taste of racing Donovan Bailey, the Olympic champion and world record-holder in the 100 metres, might feel inclined to rest before the big day. Not Chambers. The Belgrave Harrier owes a debt of gratitude to the patron of his club and will repay it in part this afternoon.

Chambers is grateful to Sir Eddie Kulukundis, the impressario and philanthropist, for financing his athletics development. The backing has reaped considerable benefits in the past four weeks as Chambers has planted his British flag on three hillsides.

In Ljubljana, Slovenia, Chambers set a world junior record of 10.06sec, taking the European under-20 title. Then he went to the senior world championships in Athens and won a bronze medal as part of the Great Britain 4 x 100 metres squad. From Athens, he travelled to Zurich and won the Carl Lewis Junior Development Race at Weltklasse 97, hammering the nine-times Olympic gold medal-winner into defeat in the process.

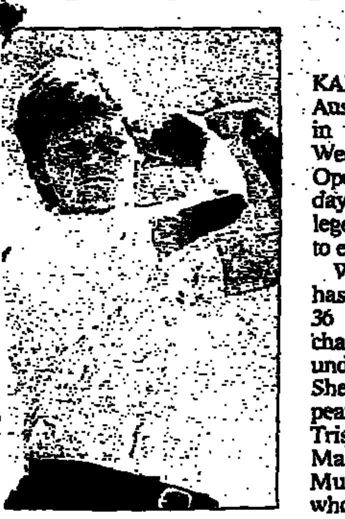
Today, at lunchtime, in a Croydon hotel, Chambers is to give a joint press conference with Bailey before turning out for his club, who should seal the British league championship at Crystal Palace. "I am repaying Sir Eddie for what he has done for me, as a sign of respect," Chambers said. "Maybe it will take the edge off me for Sunday, but athletics is a circle of travelling, running, winning sometimes and getting beaten sometimes."

Chambers: bronze medal

The Spar British Challenge tomorrow, also at Crystal Palace, features Great Britain versus an International Select team and GB Young Lions 2000. The old lioness, sadly, is still wounded, however. Gunnell, having announced her retirement, had planned two more races — this and in Gateshead on September 7 — but she has not recovered from the torn calf muscle injury that forced her to withdraw after the first round of the 400 metres hurdles in Athens.

Gunnell will come to wave while four world champions go through their paces. Michael Johnson, of the United States, and Cathy Freeman, of Australia, 400 metres winners in Athens, are in the line-up, as are John Godina, in the shot, and Marius Corbett, in the javelin.

Untimely tumble puts Lopez out of contention


Johnson: in pursuit

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

KARRIE WEBB, the young Australian, sailed serenely on in the second round of the Weetabix Women's British Open at Sunningdale yesterday, while Nancy Lopez, the legendary American, crashed to earth, literally.

Webb, swinging sublimely, has dropped only one shot in 36 holes and is leading the championship on 135, nine under par, after a round of 70. She is pursued by the European Solheim Cup duo of Trish Johnson and Kathryn Marshall, on 138, with Barb Mucha, of the United States, who said the course was growing on her, on 139. Marshall, a Scot who adores the big occasion, finished in impressive style, holing a bunker shot for a birdie three at the last.

Sadly, Lopez, who came to this championship in such good form, slumped to a 79 and missed the cut, for only the second time this season, with a total of 156. She was already seven over par leaving the 10th tee when she slipped on a sleeper and her leg went from under her. Lopez hurt her left elbow in the fall and, shaken and in some pain, she struggled home in 41, dropping four shots in the last four holes as the pain caused her to emit some Seles-like grunts.

She left the course in tears, comforted by her husband, Ray Knight. It transpired that the damage was not severe and she and Knight have arranged a rare family game of golf for tomorrow. Next week, they will be flying to Sweden, where, on Tuesday, there will be a mouthwatering international match. Sweden, represented by Annika Sorenstam, the world No 1, Liselotte Neumann and Helen Alfredsson, will take on Webb, the world No 2, Alison Nicholas and Lopez.

Nicholas, the new US Women's Open champion, had a round of 74 yesterday for a total of 149 and was left studying the scoreboard anxiously, trying to calculate if she would make the cut. It was touch and go and she bemoaned an eight-foot putt for par at the 17th that so nearly went in the hole. Mind you, she had driven into the trees and conceded that her game was not as steady as it had been in the weeks leading up to the US Open.

Webb has no such worries, with her game in the sort of shape that makes good judges go weak at the knees. Johnson, in the group behind, with time to stand and admire as the pace of play dragged, was unstinting in her admiration.

"You don't expect Karrie to drop any shots out there," the Englishwoman, who had six birdies in her 70 and is capable of searing scoring streaks, said. "She is hitting the ball so long and high at the moment that I doubt if there is a hole out there that is anything but a birdie for her."

At the moment, the Ping leaderboard, the women's world rankings, has Sorenstam, Webb and Laura Davies — way behind here on 147 — first, second and third and Johnson said it was "a toss up" between them and Kelly Robbins, one of the Americans absent this week, as to who was the best.

"They just seem relentless really," Johnson said, "every single week, especially Karrie. She is an amazing player."

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

TIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 7 icago Cubs 3; Los Angeles 1 Montreal 0; n Diego 5 Cincinnati 4 (10inns); New York ts 6 St Louis 2.

ERICAN LEAGUE: Anaheim 5 Milwau- e 1; Boston 6 Minnesota 1; Cleveland 12 roit 1; New York Yankees 10 Kansas City Oakland 12 Chicago White Sox 5 stponed: Baltimore v Seattle.

BOWLS

YAL LEAMINGTON SPA: Women's national championships: Singles: Third round: D Hankin (Egham) bt N Fleet (Workington) 21-17; J Baker (Blackwell) bt E Fletcher (Poole Park) 21-13; Y Webb (RACS, Gravesend) bt A Cox (Kingsheath, Birmingham) 21-12; N Shaw (Norton, Durham) bt P Proud (Cowes) 21-13; M Price (Burnham, Bucks) bt L Green (Shepshed, Leics) 21-16; S Dimbleby (Bourne Town, Lincs) bt M White (Hadleigh, Suffolk) 21-14; J Hearle (St Lawrence, Norfolk) bt N Cawdell (Barton le Clay, Bedfordshire) 21-15; J Green (West Moors, Dorset) bt M Osborne (St Neots) 21-12. Quarter-finals: Baker bt Hankin 21-18; Price bt Shaw 21-11; Dimbleby bt Hearle 21-16; Green bt Webb 21-17. Semi-finals: Baker bt Green 21-12; Price bt Dimbleby 21-18. Triples: Third round: Oxford City and County bt Littleton 20-15; Billet bt Maurice Lea Park 18-14; Silloth bt Rugby Thornfield 21-9; East Boldon bt Sutton 18-15; Greenhill bt Cirencester 17-16; Vine, Skegness bt Shepherds Bush 17-15; Cliff Parade, Hunstanton bt Ventnor 25-10; Oxford City and County bt Baldock 19-16. Quarter-finals: Oxford C and C bt Billet 18-9; Silloth bt East Boldon 18-14; Skegness Vine bt Cliff Parade 20-19; Oxford C and C bt Greenhill 22-7. Semi-final: Oxford C and C bt Silloth 19-8.

CRAIGENTINNY, Edinburgh: Under-25 international match: Scotland v Australia (Scotland names first): Pairs: S Glen and A White lost to M Brown and G Willis 20-28; G Logan and S Dodds lost to T Somerville and B Duprez 7-26; M Allison and W Mellors lost to P Harman and T Ellem 8-23. Singles: Logan bt Willis 21-14; Allison bt Duprez 21-13; White bt Ellem 21-15; Glen bt Harman 21-15; Mellors bt Brown 21-14; Dodds bt Somerville 21-17. Overall result: Scotland 6 Australia 3.

LLANDRINDOD WELLS: Welsh Association national championships: Singles: Last 16: D Weale (Presteigne) bt P Williams (Brynhyfryd) 21-8; S Jackson (Llanbradach) wo P Carpenter (Troedyrhiw) scr; P Jones (Ferndale) bt J Price (Aberavon) 21-17; A Kenchington (New Tredegar) bt E R Salmon (Aberystwyth) 21-19; W Thomas (Pontrhydyfen) bt A Wason (St Fagans) 21-18; N Bahray (Ammanford Park) bt R Morgan (Barry Athletic) 21-16; P Davies (Maesteg Welfare) bt L Saunders (RTB Ebbw Vale) 21-18; M Weaver (Montgomery) bt S Poole (Saundersfoot) 21-12. Quarter-finals: Jackson bt Weale 21-12; Jones bt Kenchington 21-12; Bahray bt Thomas 21-17; Weaver bt Davies 21-11. Under-25 championships: Singles: Last 16: M Wyatt (Caerphilly) bt J Collins (Aberystwyth) 21-13; W Phillips (Presteigne) bt J Tomlinson (Glyncorrwg) 21-15; W Hooper (Blaina) bt M Jones (Penhill) 21-13; J Webley (Dinas Powis) bt J Rumsey (Newport Athletic) 21-13; G Thomas (Ammanford Park) bt L Morgan (Maerdy) 21-20; B Evans (Pontrhydyfen) wo G Clement (Maerdy) scr; D Gough (Welshpool) bt J Thomas (Tylwa) 21-20; R Clement (Ogmore Vale) bt I Williams (Pembroke Dock) 21-15. Quarter-finals: Phillips bt Wyatt 21-3; Webley bt Hooper 21-17; Evans bt Thomas 21-17; Gough bt R Clement 21-11.

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of four: Oakham School: Yorkshire 459-3 dec and 26-1; Leicestershire 187 and 297 (D Stevens 94, D Williamson 71). Yorkshire win by nine wickets. Second day of three: Chester-le-Street: Durham 355-7 dec (J A Daley 114, M A Roseberry 108) Northamptonshire 26-0 dec. Guildford: Surrey 224 (N Shahid 57; D A Altree 5-34) and 155; Warwickshire 206 and 174-3 (W G Khan 98, M A Wagh 57). Warwickshire won by seven wickets. Final day of three: Chesterfield: Hampshire 107 and 183, Derbyshire 453-8 dec (J E Owen 167, S D Stubbings 146, G A Khan 54). Derbyshire win by an innings and 163 runs. Middleton-on-Sea: Sussex 190 and 190 (J R Carpenter 71, P M Ridgeway 5-83); Lancashire 341 (M J Chilton 123, M E Harvey 87) and 40-2. Lancashire win by eight wickets.

TOUR MATCH: Colombo (one day): Sri Lanka Board President's XI 240-7; Indians 243-8 (R S Dravid 95). Indians win by two wickets.

CYCLING

ADELAIDE: World Cup track series: Men: 4,000m individual pursuit: C Vande Velde (US) 4min 32.84sec bt S O'Grady (Aus) 4:34.58. Ride-off for bronze: R Karsnicki (Pol) 4:34.70 bt D George (SA) 4:37.81. 1km time-trial: 1, G Shalman (Aus) 1min 04.95sec; 2, G Kreiner (Pol) 1:05.09; 3, T Jumonji (Japan) 1:05.15; 4, S Christopherson (US) 1:05.69; 5, M Leskover (Slovenia) 1:07.04.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Qualifying round, first leg: Dinamo Batumi (Geo) 4 Ararat Yerevan (Arm) 2

Thursday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Qualifying round, first leg: Cwmbran 2 National Bucuresti (Rom) 5; Glenavon 1 Legia Daewoo (Pol) 1; Kilmarnock 2 Shelbourne 1; Levski Sofia (Bul) 1 Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) 1; Tallinna Sadam (Est) 1 Belshina Bobruisk (Bel) 1; Zhalgiris Vilnius (Lith) 0 Hapoel Beersheba (Isr) 0; Sloga Jugomagnat (FYR Macedonia) 1 FC Zagreb (Cro) 2; NK Primorje (Slovenia) 2 US Luxembourg (Lux) 0; Dinaburg Daugavpils (Lat) 1 Kapaz Ganja (Azer) 0; Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) 1 Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 1; HJK Helsinki (Fin) 1 Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 0; Balzers (Liech) 1 Budapest (Hun) 3; Hibernians (Malta) 0 Vestmannaeyjar (Ice) 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Ipswich 2 Norwich 0

EUROPEAN CUP: Second qualifying round, first leg: MTK Budapest (Hun) 0 Rosenborg (Nor) 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Blackburn 1 Tranmere 1; Leeds 3 Manchester United 0; Sheffield Wednesday 1 Liverpool 2.

GERMAN CUP: First round: Chemnitz 1 Karlsruhe 3; Leipzig 2 Guetersloh 1; Zwickau 0 Schalke 04 1; Rot-Weiss Oberhausen 0 Werder Bremen 2; Warnemuende 0 Borussia Dortmund 8; Carl Zeiss Jena 1 St Pauli 1 (Jena won 4-2 on pens); Waldhof Mannheim 2 Wattenscheid 2 (Mannheim won 4-3 on pens).

COPA LIBERTADORES: Final, second leg: Cruzeiro (Br) 1 Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0 (Cruzeiro win 1-0 on agg).

GOLF

SUNNINGDALE: Weetabix British women's open: Early leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated). 135: K Webb (Aus) 65, 70. 138: P Johnson 68, 70; K Marshall 70, 68. 139: B Mucha (US) 72, 67. 140: J Inkster (US) 69, 71; R Jones (US) 70, 70; C Matthew 70, 72. 141: C Sorenstam (Swe) 71, 70; M Hirase (Japan) 76, 65. 142: T Barrett 70, 72; A Sorenstam (Swe) 72, 70; H Dobson 73, 69; B Burton (US) 73, 69; C Johnson (US) 71, 71. 143: D Richard (US) 71, 72; E Klein (US) 69, 74; C Dibnah (Aus) 72, 71; A Dibos (Peru) 71, 72; L Lambert (Aus) 70, 73; L Hackney 74, 69; L Neumann (Swe) 68, 75; B King (US) 71, 72; K Tschetter (US) 73, 70. 144: N Most 74, 70; J Morley 75, 69. 145: A Gotmo (Swe) 75, 70; L Fairclough 73, 72; J Moodie 74, 71; B Whitehead (US) 71, 74; F Dassu (It) 76, 69; L Kane (Can) 70, 75; K Lunn (Aus) 74, 71; R Hetherington (Aus) 75, 70; H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 76. 146: G Graham (Can) 73, 73; H Wadsworth 77, 69; S Maynor 72, 74; A Yamaoka (Japan) 73, 73.

SAUNTON: British boys open championship: Quarter-finals: S Garcia (Sp) bt C Nilssen (Swe) 3 and 2; N Burrows (Minchinhampton) bt S Robinson (Wynyard) 2 and 1; M Ilonen (Fin) bt M Hoey (Shandon Park) at 19th; R Jones (Harborne) bt R Sundgren (Swe) 2 and 1. Semi-finals: Garcia bt Burrows 4 and 3; Jones bt Ilonen 2 and 1. Final: Garcia bt Jones 6 and 5.

ORIENTEERING

GRIMSTAD, Norway: World championships: Short race: Finals: Men (4.1km). 1, J Salmi (Fin) 26min 5sec; 2, T Karppinen (Fin) 26 17; 3, B Valstad (Nor) 26:27; 12, S Hale (GB, Perth) 28:49; 31, S Nicholson (GB, Forth Valley) 32:22; 32, S Palmer (GB, Walton) 32:24. Women (3.3km). 1, L Bohm (Austria) 25:15; 2, H Sandstad (Nor) 25:29; 3, H Stalt (Nor) 25:56; 13, Y Hague (GB, Warrior) 28:20; 26, H Munro (GB, Warrior) 31:13; 33, K Buckley (GB, Derwent Valley) 32:40.

RUGBY LEAGUE

DIVISIONAL PREMIERSHIP: Lancashire pool: Swinton Lions 15 Keighley Cougars 19. West Yorkshire pool: Bramley 28 Huddersfield Giants 34.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford 46 Hull Kingston Rovers 14; Oldham 16 Halifax 22

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Western Suburbs 19 North Sydney 10

AUSTRALASIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Penrith Panthers 44 Canterbury Bulldogs 8

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Victoria Schools 0 England Schools 18-group 111 (in Melbourne); Waikato Schools 5 Welsh Schools 18-group 14 (in Hamilton).

SHOOTING

BISLEY: National smallbore rifle championships: Grand aggregates: Class X Rockol WD40 Trophy: 1, N Davis (Wimbledon Park) 2,730pts; 2, W Brown (Chobham) 2,727; 3, K Rowland (Bristol) 2,726. Class A Codrington Memorial Trophy: 1, J Hammond (Bon Accord) 2,726; 2, D Phelps (Llantrissant) 2,719; 3, P de Bruyn (SA) 2,718. Class B Lever Brothers Cup: 1, P Steyn (SA) 2,720; 2, M Quick (Truro) 2,701; 3, S Roberts (Harrow). Class C Charles Walker Cup: 1, M Schutte (SA) 2,721; 2, J Jackson (Keelby) 2,705; 3, N Bester (SA) 2,701. Class D Carter Cup: 1, M Dutton (St Just) 2,673; 2, H Smith (Keighley) 2,660; 3, M Cegchan (George Watson's Coll) 2,658. Regiment Cup (top-scoring woman): J Hay (Wilton) 2,712. Marquis of Salisbury Cup (Army Championship): P Underhill (Birmingham) 2,689. Tracey Wilkes Trophy (Service women): F Weston (SEME) 2,619. V H Gilbert Memorial Trophy: J Hammond (Bon Accord) 2,726. W H Watkins Cup (top Welsh competitor): D Phelps (Llantrissant). Bob Davis Memorial Salver (county teams 50m): 1, Surrey 3,476; 2 equal, Hampshire and Gloucestershire 3,466. Sandra Wiltshire Memorial Trophy (women's teams): 1, Hertfordshire 11,733; 2, Devon 1,726; 3, Yorkshire 1,716. Anne Faulkner Memorial Trophy (Class X 100yds): 1, A Daniels (Budleigh Farm) 582; 2, N Peters (Appleton) 580; 3, N Day (Perkins) 579. Pethard Bowl (Class A 100yds): 1, J Hammond (Bon Accord) 581; 2, J O'Connell (Chobham) 580; 3, D Phelps (Llantrissant) 580. Doe Memorial Trophy (1,100yds championship): Phelps 1,389. Hammond-Lamberg Cup (50m championship): K Rowland (Bristol) 1,279.

SWIMMING

SEVILLE: European championship: Diving: Men: 1m springboard: Final: 1, A Wels (Ger) 362.10pts; 2, H Schlepps (Ger) 357.12; 3, R Alvarez (Sp) 355.56; 5, M Shipman (GB) 324.39. Women: 10m platform: Final: 1, O Khristoforova (Russ) 441.60; 2, A Walter (Ger) 438.66; 3, S Serbina (Ukr) 438.51. Long-distance: Women: 25km: 1, R Kovacs (Hun) 5hr 21min 58sec; 2, V Casprini (It) 5.23 28; 3, E van Dijk (Holl) 5:25 28. Abandoned: A Scott (GB) and S Ward (GB). Synchronised: Solo: 1, O Sedakova (Russ) 99.240pts; 2, V Dedieu (Fr) 97.440; 3, G Burlando (It) 95.960; 10, G Adamson (GB) 88.960

TENNIS

WORTHING: Satellite tournament: Semi-finals: P Hand (GB) bt J Fox (GB) 6-3, 6-4; N Gould (GB) bt C Snell (Aus) 7-6, 6-3.

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut: Men's tournament: Third round: P Korda (Cz) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-2, 6-4; T Henman (GB) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-4, 6-4; G Rusedski (GB) bt A Costa (Sp) 6-3, 7-6; S Bruguera (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-4, 7-6; R Krajicek (Holl) bt K Carlsen (Den) 7-6, 6-2; D Wheaton (US) bt M-K Goellner (Ger) 7-6, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt S Dosedel (Cz) 6-2, 6-3; P Rafter (Aus) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

INDIANAPOLIS: Men's tournament: Second round: R Fromberg (Aus) bt M Merklein (US) 6-3, 7-6; T Ho (US) bt G Weiner (US) 3-6, 7-6, 6-3; A Agassi (US) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 7-6, 6-1; C Moyá (Sp) bt S Campbell (US) 7-6, 5-7, 7-6; M Woodforde (Aus) bt C Woodruff (US) 6-3, 6-3; W Ferreira (SA) bt E Ran (Isr) 6-3, 6-3; M Larsson (Swe) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 6-7, 7-5, 6-4; A Corretja (Sp) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-2, 6-7, 6-2; T Enqvist (Swe) bt R Weidenfeld (Isr) 6-3, 6-0. Third round: Moyá bt Fromberg 6-2, 6-4; Ferreira bt G Stafford (SA) 6-4, 7-6; Ho bt Stoltenberg 6-4, 6-3; Larsson bt P Sampras (US) 7-6, 4-6, 7-6; J Novak (Cz) bt Enqvist 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; Woodforde bt M Rios (Chile) 7-6, 6-4; Agassi bt Corretja 7-5, 6-1; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt T Woodbridge (Aus) 6-2, 7-5.

TORONTO: Women's tournament: First round: F Lubiani (It) bt T Panova (Russ) 6-2, 7-6. Second round: N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt I Majoli (Cro) 7-5, 6-7, 6-1; A Coetzer (SA) bt N Dechy (Fr) 4-6, 6-4, 6-2; L Davenport (US) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-2, 7-6; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt A Miller (US) 6-2, 6-1; M J Fernandez (US) bt N Arendt (US) 6-4, 6-2; K Po (US) bt J Capriati (US) 6-3, 6-2; R Grande (It) bt T Tanasugarn (Thai) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; M L Serna (Sp) bt M Saeki (Japan) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; S Testud (Fr) bt L Raymond (US) 6-3, 6-3; Y Basuki (Indo) bt N Kijimuta (Japan) 6-4, 6-2; M Maleeva (Bul) bt Lubiani 6-7, 6-4, 6-4. Third round: Coetzer bt Po 6-3, 6-3; Davenport bt Serna 7-5, 6-4; Fernandez bt Sánchez Vicario 6-4, 6-3; Grande bt M Pierce (Fr) 6-2, 6-2; C Martinez (Sp) bt Basuki 6-1, 6-4; Maleeva bt Sawamatsu 7-5, 6-4; A Huber (Ger) bt Testud 6-3, 6-4.

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SPORT

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Under the skin of sport

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Who will England pick for the final Test?
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England forward shocked by Liverpool's willingness to sell him to Barcelona

McManaman ponders future

By David Maddock and Oliver Holt

STEVE McMANAMAN will return to Merseyside this afternoon a troubled man. The England international could be forgiven for thinking that his frustrating experience in Barcelona is the signal for the beginning of the end of his Liverpool career.

McManaman returns a disillusioned footballer, not just at the treatment he received at the hands of Barcelona, but at the attitude of his Anfield club. Speaking last night, he revealed his surprise, and anger, *that* his club had agreed a deal with their Spanish counterparts, only to hint they did so because of his attitude to transfer negotiations.

In a statement released yesterday when the proposed £12.5-million transfer broke down even before negotiations were opened, Liverpool said: "For several months Liverpool Football Club *attempted to* renegotiate a new contract, without agreement, to keep the player beyond the length of his contract.

"This week, Liverpool received an eight-figure offer *from Barcelona, and we felt* obliged to inform the player and give him an opportunity, if he wished to, of speaking to them. At the same time, Liverpool again stressed that we wanted Steve to say and sign a new contract."

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But McManaman countered that Liverpool, far from going to great lengths to keep him, have, in fact, barely begun negotiations. "They told me they wanted me to stay, and I said I was happy in principle with their ideas," he said.

"*But even though they made* one offer just after the new year, they never contacted my adviser or lawyer to take it any further and I was happy to not pursue it because I had more than two years left on my *contract*.

"I spoke to Barcelona, because Liverpool said they had accepted an offer, and felt obliged to let me to talk to them. I didn't want to leave Liverpool and it would be ridiculous to suggest that I have forced Liverpool to sell me. I'm more than happy to stay at Liverpool."

Whatever the confusion about McManaman's influence in promoting the possible transfer, it is clear that Liverpool are prepared *to sell* the player, and there is likely to be no shortage of takers. When news of the £12.5-million deal flashed across Europe, coaches at the top in Italy and Spain would have been alerted to the surprising news that the Merseyside club are ready to sell a home-grown player.

If Barcelona, possibly the world's biggest club, were considering the purchase of the player at a record fee for an Englishman leaving these shores, *then it suggests* clubs of similar stature will come to the same conclusion. What price McManaman displaying his elusive skills in Italian or Spanish colours before the season's end?

Amid the hullabaloo of the past 48 hours, the question of why Liverpool are prepared to sell has been overlooked but *yesterday's statement hinted* at it: Peter Robinson, the chief executive, is afraid that he could lose the player for nothing under the Bosman ruling should his contract be allowed to run out, and would prefer to accept a sizeable fee now.

If McManaman does leave, then he must be hoping that any transfer goes more smoothly than that proposed by Barcelona. Speaking yesterday, he hinted strongly that *the Catalan club had used him* as an unwitting pawn in a complicated game of chess with their preferred target, Rivaldo, the man they eventually signed for around £15million from Deportivo de la Coruña.

Barcelona had opened talks with him two weeks ago, as they did with Denilson, his *fellow Brazilian. They had hit* problems over both the fee and the salary with both players, and then decided to turn — apparently — to McManaman.

In fact, he says, they used him, and then abused him to cover their tracks. "When I arrived in Barcelona, I did not meet a single person from the club," McManaman said. "Even before I flew out there, I realised there was a less than five per cent chance that I would join them. *The man* charged with negotiations at the club was in fact away from the city, talking to another player and I think that they said the deal fell through because I was greedy as an excuse to their fans for why the deal fell through."

> *'I did not want to join Barcelona. I want to play for Liverpool. I was born there and my family lives there. It is the place dearest to me'*
>
> **Steve McManaman's World, page 45**

Bobby Robson, the Barcelo*na general manager, said last* night that he had presented his report on McManaman to the Catalan giants on Thursday morning after watching him in action in FA Carling Premiership matches against Wimbledon on Saturday and Leicester City at Anfield on Wednesday night but that he was aware Barcelona were *pursuing other options* including Rivaldo.

"Rivaldo was one of the best players in Spain last season," Robson said. "I don't know how many goals he got but I would think it was more than McManaman. He is great on free *kicks, which we need. He* has got a swerve and a dip. He is left-footed and he beats people.

"We have got Figo, who is a fantastic player on the right of midfield, and I think Louis *van Gaal wanted somebody* wide on the left. Rivaldo has got a lovely pass on him, too. He is in Barcelona having a medical and if he is fine, he will sign today."

Officials at the Catalan club told Spanish newspapers yesterday that they had warned McManaman against travelling to Barcelona while the *club was still negotiating* with other players. They repeated the claim that they had been dissuaded from signing the Englishman because of his demands for an annual salary of £2 million.

PHOTOGRAPHS: GUSTAU NACARINO AND JORDI CORTINA

While Rivaldo was presented as Barcelona's new signing yesterday, McManaman was left to slip away from his hotel and fly quietly back to Liverpool

Dalglish renews link with Rush

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

KENNY DALGLISH, the Newcastle United manager, last night took the Liverpool old boys' reunion — started this week when he signed John Barnes — a stage further *by taking* Ian Rush, his striking partner for so many years at Anfield, to St James' Park on a free transfer.

Rush, 35, who *endured* a miserable year at Elland Road last season after his move from Liverpool and scored just three goals in 36 Premiership appearances for Leeds, travelled to the North East yesterday and completed the transfer just before the deadline for eligibility for the Champions' League stage of the European Cup.

His signing on a one-year contract, prompted by the *long-term injury to Alan* Shearer and the sale of Les Ferdinand to Tottenham Hotspur, appears to confirm that Dalglish has not been given sufficient funds to buy a leading young striker. It *comes after* he added *Stuart* Pearce, 35, from Nottingham Forest, and Barnes, 33, to his squad, also on free transfers.

If anyone can eke some dying embers from Rush's glorious career, though, it is the *man* who provided the Welshman with so much of his ammunition in their days at Liverpool. Dalglish was confident enough to make a wry aside about the age issue yesterday. "We are developing our youth policy," he said. "There are no problems. The deal is done and he will be registered for Europe."

Rush, who won five championship medals and one European Cup-winners' medal at Liverpool, will not be eligible for the second leg of Newcastle's European Cup qualifying tie against Croatia Zagreb in ten days' time. *Dalglish's team* will take a slender lead to Croatia after their controversial 2-1 victory at St James' Park on Wednesday night.

Tiger tries to shoot from hip but misfires

The time has come for Woods and his supporters to accept that nobody is bigger than the game of golf itself

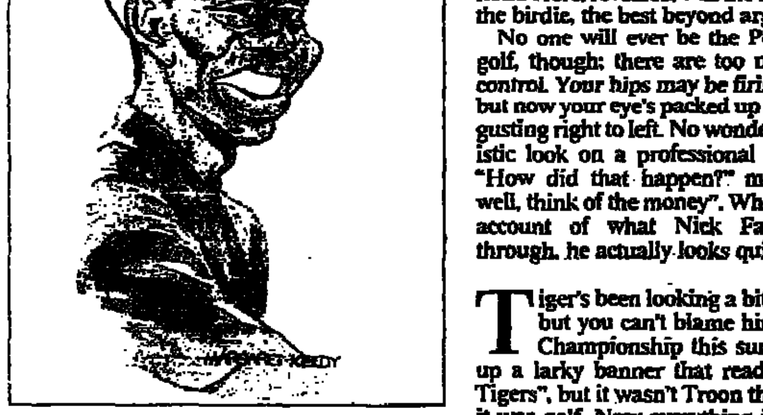
LYNNE TRUSS

So, it turns out that we have to ask ourselves: are our hips "firing" correctly? According to his coach, Butch Harmon, on telly on Thursday night, Tiger Woods's failure to astonish in the first round at US PGA Championship this week was all down to this interesting problem — some sort of ballistic malfunction of the pelvis.

We guessed what Butch was talking about, having seen many a hero in the same situation in westerns. Tiger took dead-eye aim, you see, but instead of his hips going "bang, bang", they went "click, click". And it's always a disaster when that happens. While his audience gasped "Oh no" and gripped one another in alarm, Tiger looked down at his non-firing body in dismay and click-clicked again. "Well durn it, if ma *hips ain't jammed," he said.*

Everyone wants Tiger Woods to be a consistently brilliant player. There is no room for disagreement about that. We so avidly want his hips to fire correctly that if his hands also detonate and his feet explode, that's fine. Woods is an inspiring fellow whose follow-through is so vigorously elastic that his torso ends up pointing in the opposite direction from his feet. As for the length of his shots, it's as though an athlete suddenly halved the 100 metres record, or a horse jumped 8ft 6in. Golf-course designers now *weep at midnight* at their *drawing-boards*. "I don't know where to put the bunkers any more," they wail.

Lumbering him with the "I am Tiger Woods" paragon stuff was unfair, though understandable. He's handsome, young, a perfect racial composite and, moreover, never says boo to a goose. All this is marketing, though, and we should not be distracted by it. No, the reason that people are gagging about Tiger is that, when he assailed the Masters so magnificently this spring, he not only excelled personally but offered an insane hope to millions. With a Merlin-like caddie at his side and with his magic Excalibur clubs, he went forth with a pure heart and, over 72 holes, appeared to conquer golf itself.

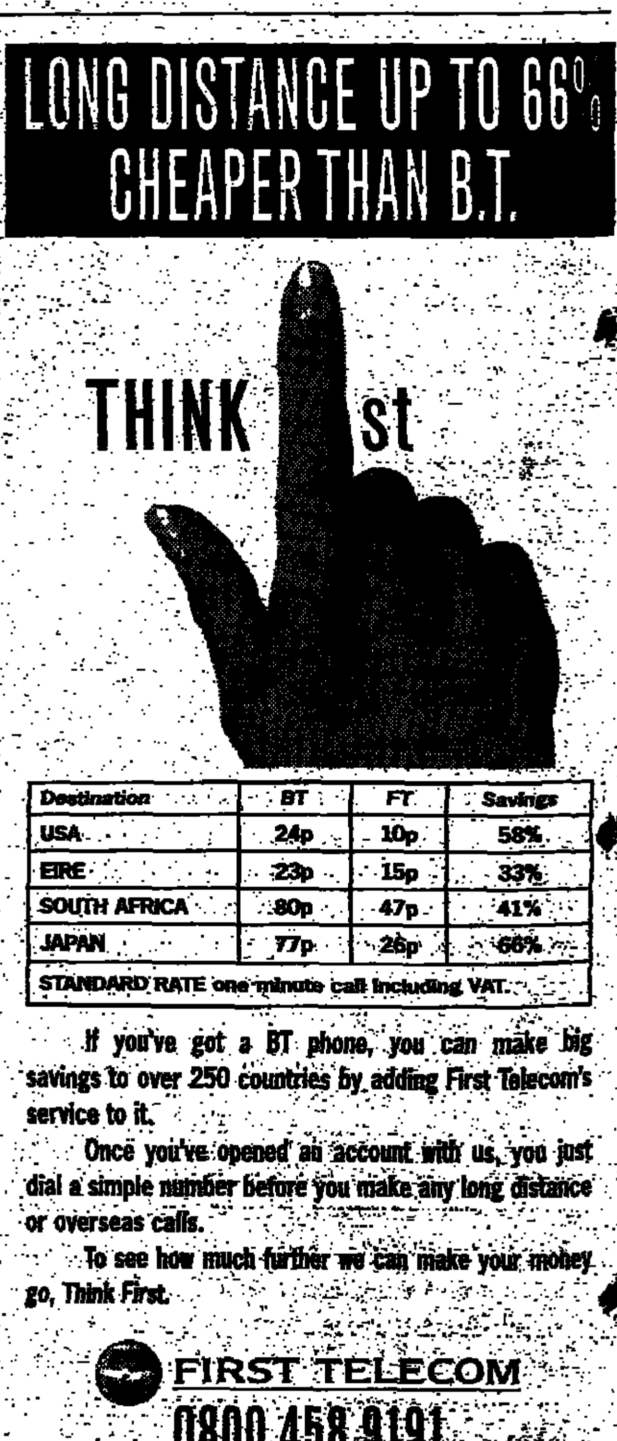


It seems silly to think of it now, of course. Nobody beats golf for more than five minutes, but for one brief, shining moment — as Tiger strode up the 18th at Augusta, waving to fans — *it really looked as though a human* being could challenge this annoying game, wrestle it and finally pose with a foot on its neck. Here, revealed, was the Pete Sampras of the birdie, the best beyond argument.

No one will ever be the Pete Sampras of golf, though; there are too many factors to control. *Your hips may be firing like Exocets*, but now your eye's packed up and the wind is gusting right to left. No wonder the characteristic look on a professional golfer's face is "How did that happen?" mixed with "Oh well, think of the money". When you take full account of what Nick Faldo has been through, he actually looks quite cheerful.

Tiger's been looking a bit grumpy lately, but you can't blame him. At the Open Championship this summer, they put up a larky banner that read "Troon tames Tigers", but it wasn't Troon that fought back, it was golf. Now everything is *quite normal* again, with no Once and Future King nonsense, just a man with a stick against the Almighty. Tiger may have astonishing skills and everyone adores him, but golf doesn't kow-tow to anybody and that's a fact.

Winged Foot wonders, *page 47*



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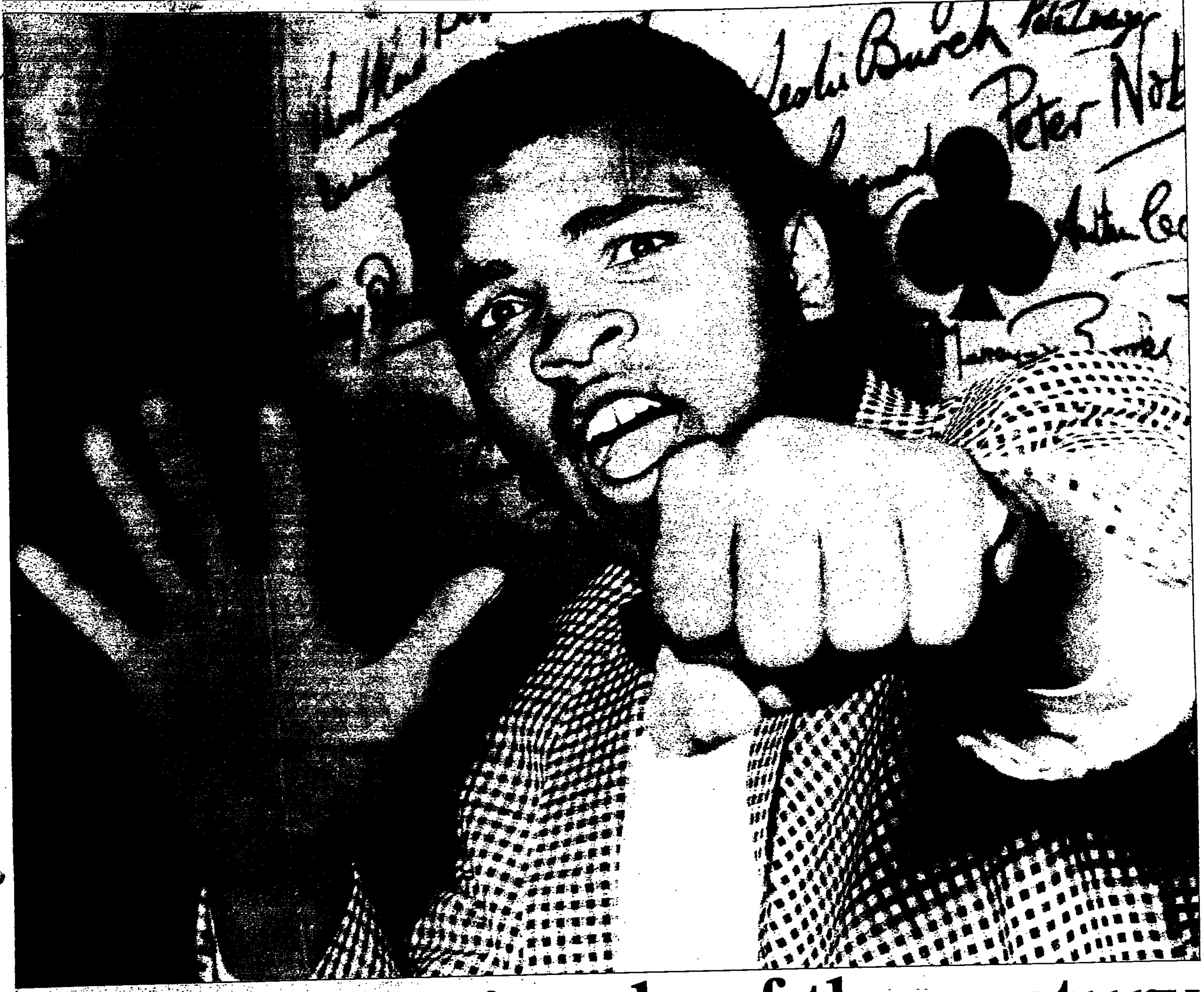

The Greatest's sale of the century

Muhammad Ali was not only king of the ring – he was the sportsman of the millennium, as a £1.5 million sale of his memorabilia shows, **Sri Sen** writes

As soon as we reach the next century, sports writers around the world will be moved to consider who was the sports person of the millennium. The media will, almost certainly, let the public decide and some impressive contenders will enter the lists, such as: Muhammad Ali, Pelé, Paavo Nurmi, Jesse Owens, Emil Zatopek, Martina Navratilova, Mildred "Babe" Didrikson and, from earlier times when much of the world was coloured pink, W.G. Grace and Captain Barclay Allardice.

It would be surprising, however, if Ali did not remain The Greatest.

A collection of Ali memorabilia worth £1.5 million, which will be exhibited by Christie's in London from August 27-31, strengthens the great man's claim to a place at the top of the millennium's pyramid of sportsmen. The collection is owned by Ronnie Paloger, of California, who says: "People who are experts in the field of memorabilia have got goosebumps seeing my exhibition. They are just in awe."

In the same way that archaeologists unearthed the splendour of the trappings buried with the ancient kings of Egypt, so, too, Paloger has revived the golden years of the heavyweight kings which lay buried in the 1960s and 1970s.

Particularly important is a little-known contract that Ali signed to meet Frazier in his first fight after returning from his nearly four-year exile. In fact, he did not meet Frazier but Jerry Quarry, but the choice of Frazier as the first opponent is significant when one considers that Tyson chose to meet a no-hoper, Peter McNeeley, in his first contest after coming out of prison.

Paloger says: "I grew up in the 1960s and I'm a product of the 1960s, so Ali was my hero. Mickey Mantle was my baseball hero and Ali was even bigger than that. He was a major hero to me and my generation. We cared for him.

"When I got into the memorabilia stage, collecting Ali stuff, I was ready to focus on one person. I was able to do something with one identity, because in baseball you could follow 100 years and thousands of people, and to me Ali was not only an unbelievable athlete but an unbelievable human being. He stood for something, for everybody. A man of courage. He stood up for his convictions and suffered greatly for it. He crossed all social, racial and economic lines. Ali not only fought but had something to say. This is unique, compared to the athletes of today, because basically they don't say anything that impacts on society or on anything but themselves. Ali is one of the greatest Americans to have ever come out of our country.

"How many people would have given up their title for three and a half years and lost millions and millions of dollars? And the attacks that he took from the press without due process? He was stripped of his title within two hours of taking a stance against the Vietnam War. Unheard of. And it happened in the United States."

The Ali collection, which will be sold on October 19 in Los Angeles by Christie's, contains 3,000 items, and the 278-page catalogue, documented and set out chronologically, gives you a complete pictorial view of the boxer's career. All the personal artefacts were acquired from promoters or members of his entourage. Many items came from the collection of Drew Bundini Brown, Ali's cornerman and cheer-leader who coined the phrase: "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee."

The pieces, collected with the diligence of an Otaku (Japanese devotee of modern memorabilia), range from Ali's first amateur boots to the last World Championship robe he wore when he regained the title from Leon Spinks in 1978 to become the first man to win the world heavyweight title three times; from Cassius Clay's first Golden Gloves trophy to the Muhammad Ali D-Con Roach traps. If you have a ticket from a fight between Ali and Al "Blue" Lewis at Croke Park, Dublin, hold on to it; it could be worth a fortune, because there is only one known to exist. The white boots with the lightning bolts on the ankles, worn for a fight with Foreman, are valued at $20,000 to $30,000. There are other big-fight shoes at about $10,000.

The centrepiece of the sale is the magnificent gown worn by Ali for the "Rumble in the Jungle" against Foreman in Zaire in 1974. It has no estimated price and took the collector five years to acquire. Paloger even has the handwritten list of journalists' forecasts about the outcome of the fight. There, alongside Norman Mailer and Budd Schulberg, is the name of Colin Hart of *The Sun*. All three said Ali would win.

Paloger's favourite pieces are the handwritten letters of the young Cassius Clay. "That Rome Bound [Olympic Games, 1960] letter in which he said he is the best in the United States is unbelievable," Paloger says. "It showed the power of the young man's mind and his confidence in his game plan. The vision of what he wanted to be: champion and the greatest. And he became the greatest."

There will, of course, be many who think their heroes greater. Nurmi, the father of distance running, broke 22 world records from 1,500 metres up to 20 kilometres, won nine gold medals and three silver in three Olympics; Pelé played in two World Cups and in 1,363 first-class matches scored 1,281 goals; Owens took four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin in sprints and the long jump and, a year earlier, at

Continued on page 2

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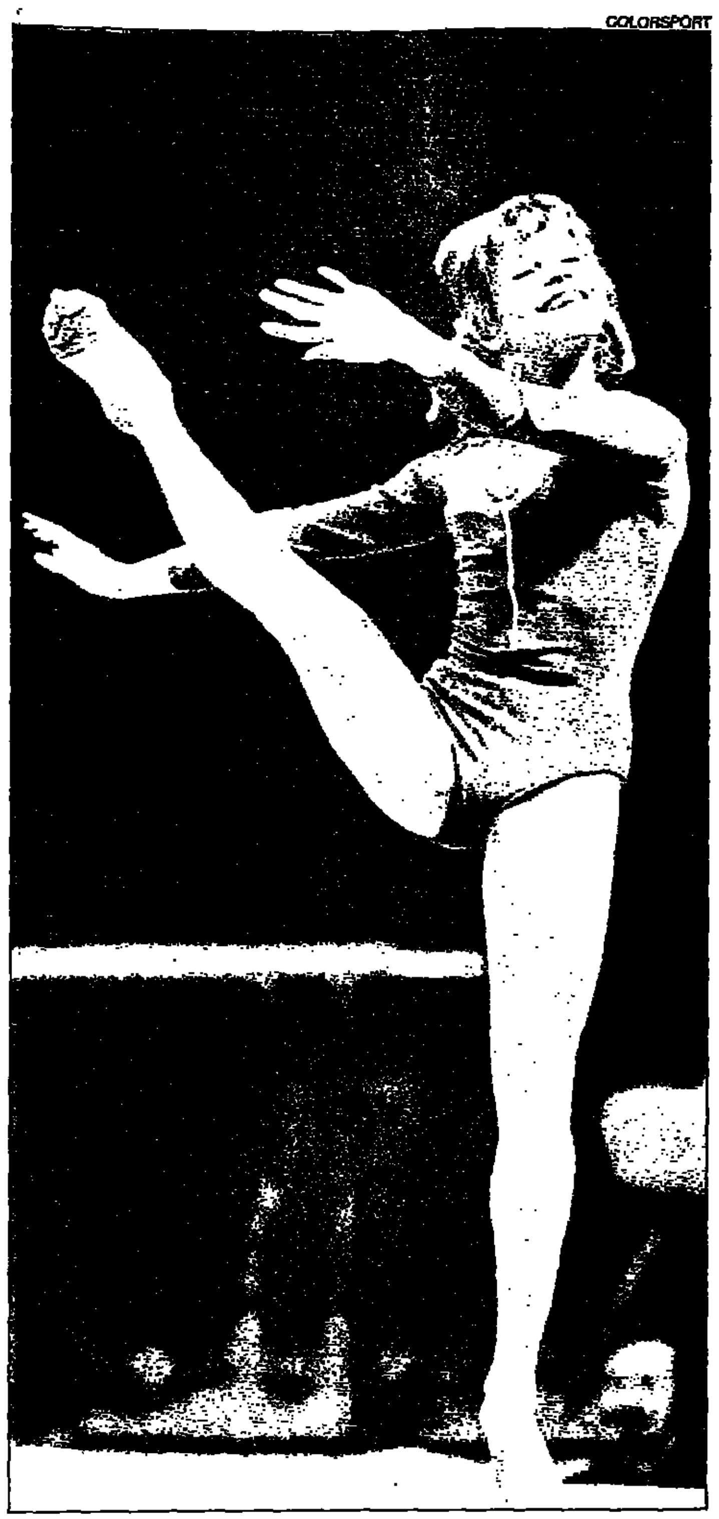
Only a handful of athletes have ever achieved the public acclaim, or perfectionism, of Ali

Winning is the only thing that matters


COLORSPORT

Olga Korbut transformed gymnastics from a minority sport

If acclaim reflects sporting worth, then Muhammad Ali and Pelé, the former boxer and *the former footballer, are supreme.* Their profiles would be recognised *in more parts of the world than* those of the Pope or the President of *the United States.*

Pelé, now Brazil's Minister for *Sport, did not have to destroy, or be* destroyed by, anyone else to earn *his* laurels. A two-day truce was declared in the war between Nigeria and Biafra while both sides watched him play; Red Chinese frontier guards left their posts to greet him in Hong Kong; he had audiences with two Popes, five emperors, ten kings, 110 heads of state. Born close to poverty, a World Cup winner at 17 and then twice more, as well as the scorer of 1,321 goals, Pelé was the consummate athlete and remains the ambassador for his "beautiful game".

Some man. But where do sporting women rate? As the World's Athletic Championships in Athens *last week reminded us, women* were only allowed to adorn the *arena for the first half of the mod*ern Olympic century. Yet four *stand apart:* Mary Peters won just one Olympic gold, but converted that into trying to unite Northern Ireland. Martina Navratilova, serving and volleying as close to the standard of man as any female has, claimed 167 tennis singles titles. Olga Korbut transformed gymnastics from a minority sport to one which millions of children aspire to, albeit with a pixie-ish style which ended the period of womanly grace on the floor and the beam.

However, it is Irena Szewinska who was the first lady of sport. Born in Leningrad, to Polish parents, she competed in five Olympics from 1964 to 1980, won seven medals, from 100 metres to 400 metres to long jump, and still serves today as a member of the Women's Commission of International Athletics.

Moreover, masking extreme stubbornness with feminine seren*ity, Szewinska disproved the theory* that an athlete cannot also be a *mother and a home keeper, and at* the same time be a forecaster employed by the National Institute for Economics in Warsaw.

Such people do leave their mark. Roger Bannister was knighted for breaking the barrier of the four-minute mile in 1954, rather than for his subsequent work as a neurologist. Dick Fosbury, an engineer, literally reversed the way generations of people approach the high jump and changed, through example, the mechanics and the perspective of an international sport.

Emil Zatopek changed my own perspective, even though we *met* 25 years after his incomparable feat of *winning the 5,000-metre, 10,000-*metre and 26-mile marathon races *— all within eight days — at the* 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

He appeared to run in agony, head rolling, tongue out, face crimson, arms flailing. But this indomitable man, standing up against the Soviet tanks in his beloved Prague in 1968, was stripped of his lieutenant-colonel rank and sent to sweep the streets.

Nine years later, still ostracised, he was allowed to be a guest at a banquet in Prague, along with other Olympians. He showed unbroken spirit. He sang English songs extremely loudly and, of his sport, commented: "Today, the athlete is not an athlete. He's the centre of a team — *doctors, scientists, coaches and so* on. Sometimes I ran like a mad *dog, but it was very simple, it was* out of myself."

Daley Thompson, arguably the finest all-round athlete and a decathlete unbeaten in his prime, similarly said: "It's going out there and finding out what you've got." From a broken home, after a hyperactive childhood, Thompson mastered ten sporting disciplines and the psychology of winning. "If I have a cold, I don't sneeze," he insisted. "It would let others know I was not at my best."

Harnessing his balance and timing to thoroughbred horses was Lester Piggott, who won his first race at the age of 12 and his last when he was nearing 60. He also claimed 30 classics, among his *more than 4,000 victories in 26* countries. Obsessed, leading a life *of continual near-starvation and* dehydration to maintain his racing weight, he was better able to communicate with half-tame animals than with *other humans.*

Winning was natural to Carl Lewis, who won *nine* Olympic gold medals for running and jumping. He emulated Jesse Owens, the black American who won four golds at the 1936 Berlin Olympics under the gaze of Hitler. Lewis lacked Owens's humility but moved with the grace of a gazelle.

At cricket, no one has yet bettered Gary Sobers. With bat, ball or wicketkeeper's pads, he excelled for Barbados, the West Indies and Nottinghamshire, for whom he struck those immaculate six sixes in an over against Glamorgan.

Jack Nicklaus similarly excelled with golf clubs. For more than three decades, capturing 20 majors, he elevated himself in American society — a society which pays Michael Jordan, the basketball icon, $40 million for one season.

Nicklaus is now challenged by the young Tiger Woods, whom *Nicklaus reckons* will eclipse his records — if he sustains the hunger and the will.

Longevity remains paramount. Juan Manuel Fangio, five-time world motor racing champion in the 1950s, drove when the human component dominated the machine. "I felt the car entrusted to me was a living thing," he observed. And he steered a line as close to the edge of disaster as man dared.

Al Oerter was the ultimate Olympian. Four times he went to the Games and although he never held the discus world record, four times he won the gold medal. On the third occasion, *in Tokyo in 1964,* he devised a "surgical collar" out of a towel tied to a *leather strap, to* defy doctors' orders. With two discs out of place *and a torn rib cartilage,* he explained: "These are the Olympics. *You die for them.*"

Foolhardy, fixated, Oerter in 1980 *tried a comeback. He had twice* risen to a leading position in *industry and he took lessons from a* young ballerina who suggested he *lacked something in technique.* "You search for perfection," he said. "She told me I was not getting the best out of my body movement."

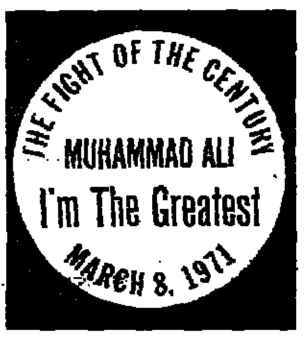
ROB HUGHES

Emil Zatopek, left, Martina Navratilova, centre, and Pelé: their exceptional talent was harnessed to indomitable ambition

He floated like a butterfly, but he stung like a bee

Continued from page 1

Ann Arbor, Michigan, he *equalled or broke six world* records in the space of 45 *minutes:* Zatopek won the 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres and the marathon in the 1952 Olympics; Navratilova won nine Wimbledon titles; Didrikson excelled in athletics, basketball and golf; Allardice walked 1,000 miles round Newmarket Heath in 1,000 hours in 1801 and was paid £16,000, which would be about £200,000 today. Grace, of course, was the most recognisable figure in late Victorian times after Gladstone.



"I'm the greatest" badge for the 1971 fight v Frazier

None of these heroes was as dominant a world personality as Ali during their careers and after retirement. One glance at Thomas Hauser's superb biography, *Muhammad Ali, His Life and Times* (on which I have leant for reference), shows that almost anyone who was anyone had something to say about Ali, good or bad, nothing indifferent. Even though he suffers from Parkinson's disease, Ali is far from finished. "I ain't dead. I'm just getting started," he says. "When I was boxing, I used to get up at six and run. Now I get up at five and pray."

Ali has been out of the ring for 16 years and yet today there is no heavyweight to rival him. Indeed, no heavyweight contest these days is complete without an appearance by the great man. The crowd rises as one when he comes to an event and climbs into the ring and raises his hands as of old and walks slowly over to the contestants to wish them well. The twinkle is not there any more in Ali's eyes but a brave smile relieves the fears of the crowd for him. The squiggle of the smile is like the flourish of a signature that endorses his courage.

He is still the yardstick for courage, performance, endurance and success in the ring. If Mike Tyson wants to be considered the greatest he has to be measured against Ali. Tyson and all the other leading heavyweights can thank Ali for the multimillion-dollar cheques they receive for their fights. It was Ali who set the standard of payment for heavyweight championships. Ali was paid $5,450,000 for his fight with George Foreman in 1974. He made far more than $60 million by the end of his *career, which started in 1960* and lasted 21 years.

He was *the first* heavyweight to win the world title *three times. He lost only five of* his 61 contests, but he avenged *three of those defeats. He faced* the most formidable foes in the world in *Sonny Liston,* Joe Frazier (three times), Foreman, the US Army when he refused to be inducted to fight in Vietnam, and Parkinson's.

He outsmarted them all, even Parkinson's. "God gave me Parkinson's to show me I'm just a man like everybody else," he said. "To show me I've got human frailties like everyone else, because that's all I am, a man. If I die, I'll *have no regrets. I have tried to* live a good life and do the right *thing. I'm not scared to die* because I have made my peace."

Ali was a demi-god full of devilment, a clown and a ringmaster. He was the king of communication. The press hated and loved him in turn. They castigated him merci*lessly when he refused to join* the army to fight in Vietnam; *they sat at his feet* and lapped up his words when he sounded off before and after fights. He was never boring, always funny, clever, outrageous. He said before his first fight with Frazier in 1971: "Fifteen referees. I want 15 referees at this fight because there ain't no one man who can keep up with the pace I'm gonna set... On that night they'll be watching everywhere. England, France, Italy, Egypt and Israel will declare a 45-minute truce. Even Red China and Formosa. Not since time began has there been a night like this."

Ed Schuyler, the highly respected boxing writer of Associated Press, said: "There has never been a heavyweight champion, or maybe a superstar athlete, who was more accessible to the media than Ali. He could make you believe anything. Once he said he was going to levitate. Then he went up in the air. And you said, 'My god, the man is *levitating*'. And *you* knew he couldn't, but there it is. If you *couldn't write about Ali, you* couldn't write. He made us look good."

On the serious side, his words had a simple poetry and power to move black and white America. He brought hope to the pacifist movement in his country when it needed it most during the Vietnam war. He de-intellectualised *political ideas and intellectual*ised human interpretation and *was sought after by campuses* and political leaders who opposed the war. Ali told *his* detractors: "You can't condemn me for wanting peace. If you do, you condemn peace itself. A rooster crows when it sees the light. Put him in the dark and he'll never crow. I've seen the light and I'm crowing."

Ted Kennedy said: "My brother Bob hollered Muhammad's resistance to the Vietnam War. It was a commitment they shared and I think Muhammad's action contributed enormously to the debate about whether the United States should be in Vietnam and galvanised some of his admirers to join protests against the war for the first time."

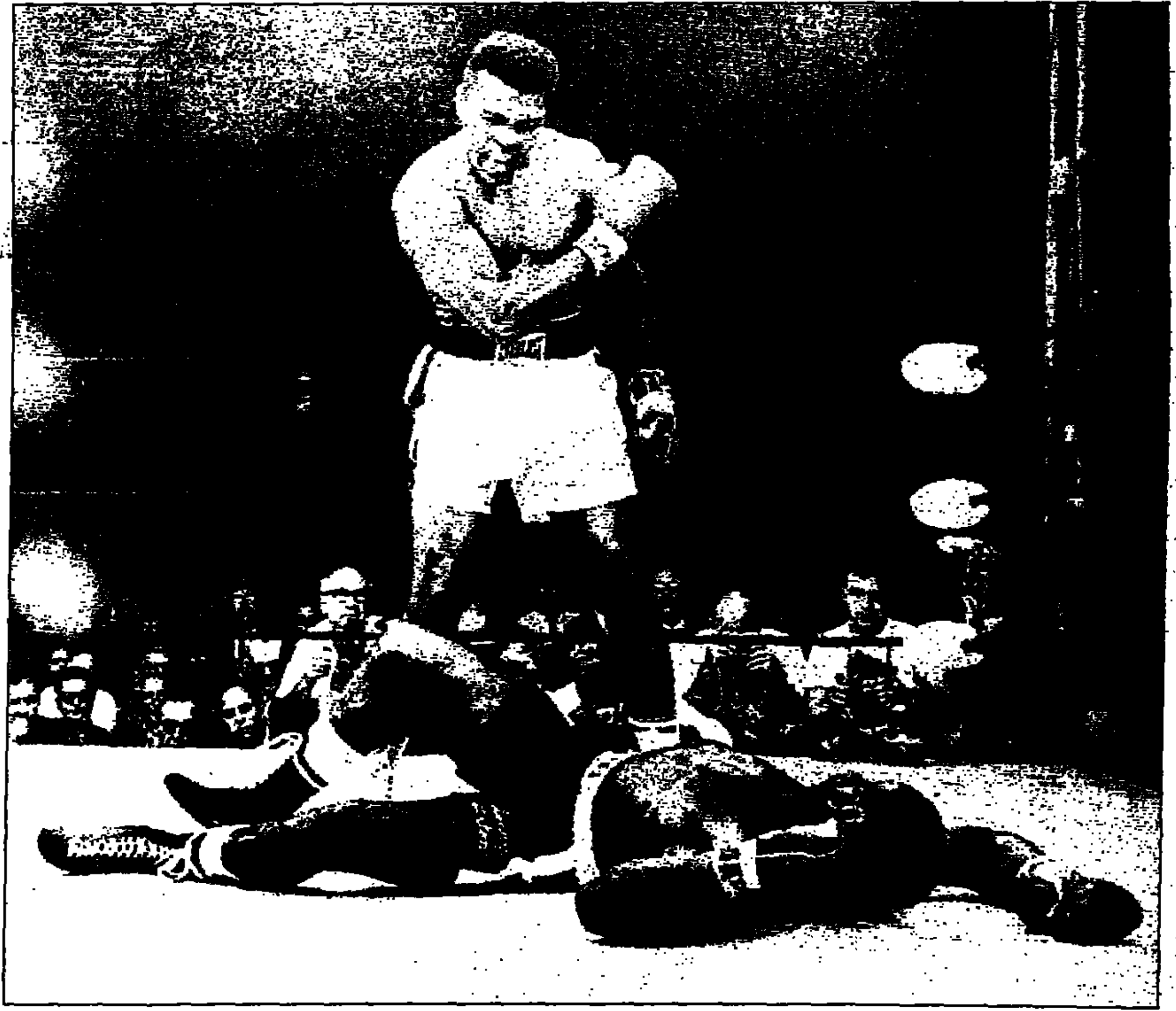
Ali dominated the 1960s and the 1970s in the ring and the 1980s and 1990s outside it, and his *presence* will be undiminished when the decade ends. All the icons of his time — *John* F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X, John Lennon — are all dead and are difficult to recall by those who did not live in their time.

If the speeches of the Kennedys and the mobile face and curves of Marilyn Monroe cannot be readily remembered without the help of old footage *and old movies. Ali remains* fresh in our mind. He was *more than a king, he was a* king emperor, a pharaoh, *whose achievements* would make future generations marvel.

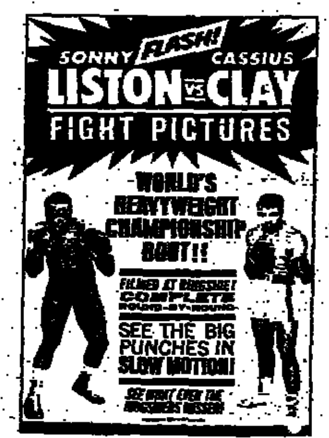
The appeal to young people *of the recent award-winning* film about the fight between him and *Foreman in Zaire in* 1974, entitled *When We Were Kings,* underlines his popularity today. As one 28-year-old said: "It is a film that tells you something about yourself and not just about people on the screen.

"Ali is like an artefact of a culture where everything considered important had a *meaning. Today's sportsmen* have little to say. They exist to sell designer labels."

The world will not see the *like of Ali for another hundred* years. Bryant Gumbell, one of American television's leading anchormen, perhaps made the sharpest observation that will sum up Ali for all time: "Joe Frazier was an available symbol behind whom people who hated Ali could unite. Was it Joe's fault? Of course not. It was Joe's misfortune to be cast as the opponent of a man who was champion of all good things."


Posed photograph for the end of the heavyweight championship fight on May 25, 1965, in Lewiston, Maine, when Ali defeated Sonny Liston

Robe, above, worn by Ali for his fight against George Foreman in 1974



Gloves, left, worn by Ali in 1967. Ronnie Paloger, collector, with Ali, above: "He was a major hero to me and my generation. We cared for him... Ali is one of the greatest Americans to have come out of our country"

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هكذا من الأصل

صورة عن الاصل

Once they were just for men but those pinstripes are now staple workwear for both sexes

Pinstripes are the business

Once the word pinstripe conjured up images of successful businessmen and Conservative politicians — men who wanted to appear in control. Those days are gone, and today the look has become a fashion staple for both sexes, whether they're putting on a professional front in the office or wanting to bne smart yet casual out of hours.

It's not just the clientele that has changed; shops are now bursting with dozens of innovative styles in conventional needle and chalk stripes that mix the conservative with the modern. Which means that, for every modern city woman, there is a wide range of Miss Moneypenny pencil skirts, masculine trouser suits and sensible separates to wear every day of the week, from the Monday morning board meeting to the casual yet smart lunch at the weekend.

It is a style that allows women the freedom to experiment — a chance to emulate the chaps in a way that is modern and sassy, but not overbearing. It also allows women to get away with slightly more in the office: shorter skirts, for example; are more acceptable if they're made of charcoal-grey ticking, as are trousers if they are sharply cut in traditional striped serge fabrics.

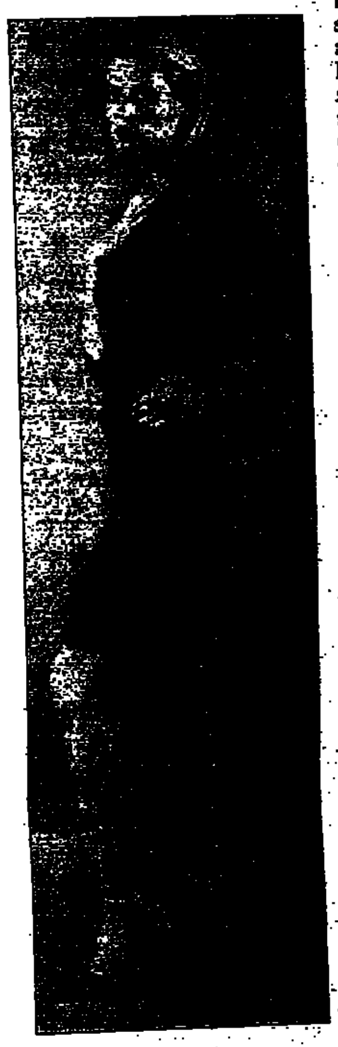
At the international fashion shows for this season Ralph Lauren showed an androgynous collection of mannish worsted suiting in pinstripes; Gucci also updated the Eighties power-dressing looks in more feminine dresses and suits. Subsequently, many high-street labels have followed suit, producing basic, tailored skirt and trouser shapes in pinstripes for their autumn collections. Warehouse, for example, has a selection of workaday pinstripes that are modern enough to be worn at any time of day.

If you cannot find the time or the patience to go high-street shopping, there are always mail-order catalogues. Next Directory (0345 100500) has a couple of sharply tailored pinstriped trousersuits in single or double-breasted styles, as well as a selection of matching pinstriped essentials. The La Redoute catalogue (0500 777777) has some inexpensive tapered city styles, including a sleeveless dress, tapered trousers and a tailored slimline skirt; while Freemans (0345 900100) has a pinstriped selection in its Working Wardrobe.

The best looks for the office are neither too sexy, nor too short, but smart, chic and simple. A lambswool or cashmere top, or a fitted blouse, are ideal to complement the look, with either smart, dark heels or court shoes.

Wherever you work, whether it is from home, from an office or on the road, the new pinstriped suit will be ideal: the smart choice for the modern Nineties woman.

Heath Brown



ABOVE: Red cashmere wrap top, £175, N. Peal, 37 Burlington Arcade, W1 (0171-493 5378). Grey pinstriped skirt, £35, Warehouse (0171-437 7101). Mock snakeskin ankle-tie shoes, £225, Gina, 189 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 2932)

ABOVE: Chocolate fine-ribbed belted cardigan, £24.99, Jeffrey Rogers, The Plaza (01923 474400). Chocolate pinstriped trousers, £79.95, Planet, Harrods, SW1; Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1; Kendalls, Deansgate, Manchester (0181-800 8022)

ABOVE: Cream stretch shirt, £24.99, Jeffrey Rogers, as before. Dark blue pinstriped trousers, £595 (as part of suit), Dolce & Gabbana, Harvey Nichols, SW1 (0171-235 5000); Toffee shoes, £79 99, Ravel (0171-631 0224)

Photographs by **Richard Burns.** Hair and make-up by **Sally Kvalheim** for Jo Hansford Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

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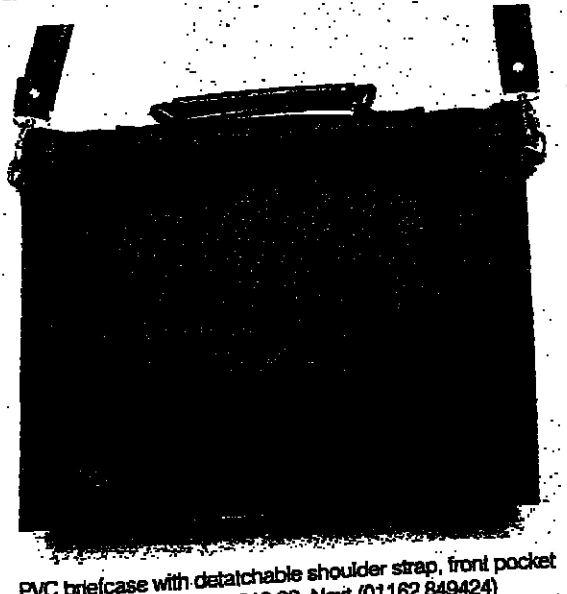

PVC briefcase with detatchable shoulder strap, front pocket and pen holders, £19.99, Next (01162 849424)

LEFT: Arran Stirling leather briefcase, handmade in Somerset, £399, Mulberry (0171-491 3900)

RIGHT: PVC briefcase with cotton lining, internal pockets and concealed strap, £22.50, Bhs branches (0171-262 3288)

Toffee shirt, £24.99, Jeffrey Rogers, as before. Navy pinstriped skirt, £49, Benetton (0171-647 4200). Shoes, £44.99, Ravel, as before

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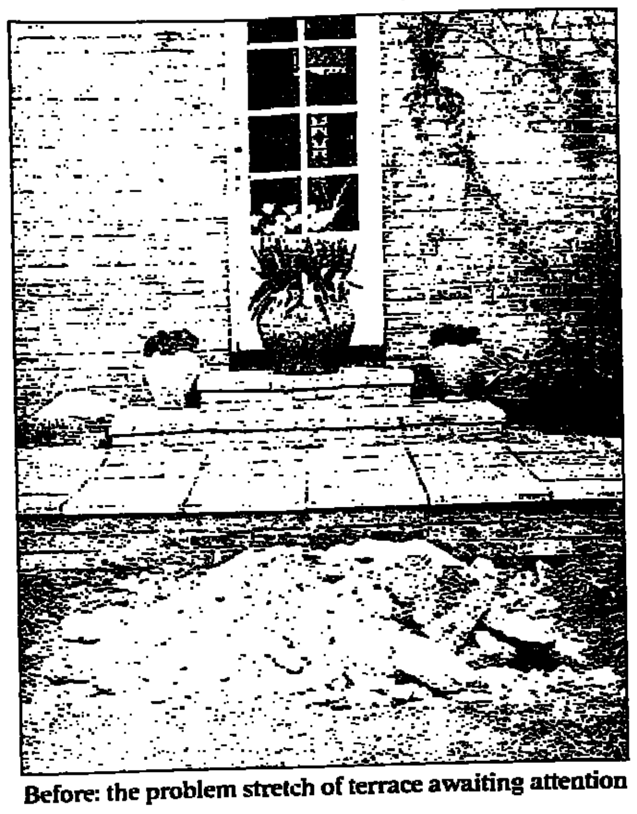
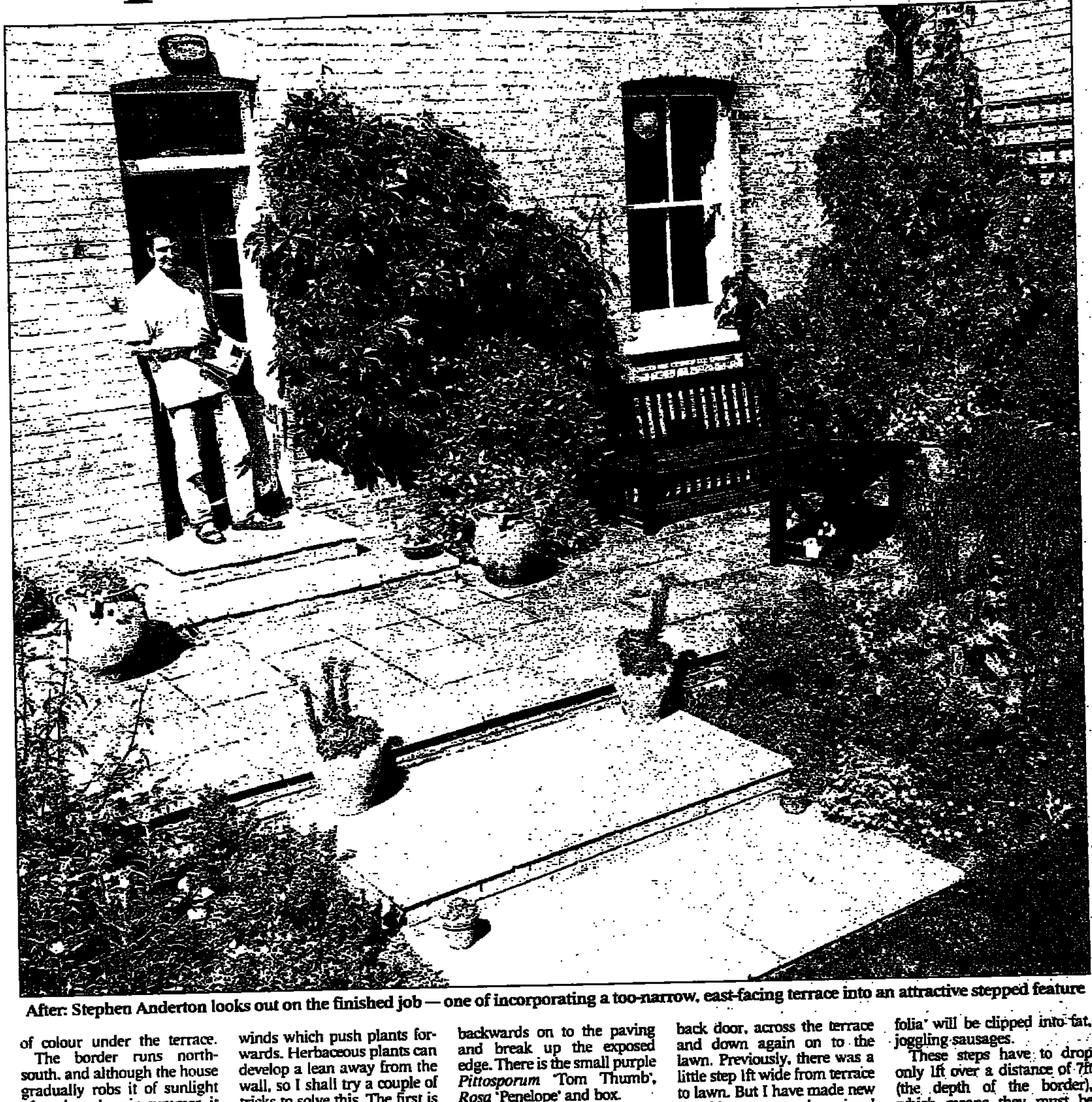
Step by step to a far prettier terrace



Before: the problem stretch of terrace awaiting attention

TONY WHITE



After: Stephen Anderton looks out on the finished job — one of incorporating a too-narrow, east-facing terrace into an attractive stepped feature

Stephen Anderton shows how he solved a back-of-the-house problem

I sometimes think how wonderful it would be to have a long, lean-to conservatory stretching across the back of the house. And then I do a double-think. One, because it would cost from £15,000 to £40,000 depending on quality, and two, because I could not bear to invest so much in a conservatory which did not get the evening sun.

The back of the house faces east, which is a good aspect for a conservatory — not too hot, perfect for plants and for breakfast — but I would rather spend money on a summerhouse facing west at the bottom of the garden. So I am left with an east-facing terrace which is about 30ft long and 9ft wide, with a 1ft drop on to the lawn.

What to do with it?

The terrace, at one end of which is a kitchen extension, is paved with square, well-weathered concrete slabs laid in straight rows. Rectangular slabs are always so much easier to make look good but, to make a worthwhile difference to this terrace, I would have to re-lay it, ideally in new paving, and for a morning-only terrace it really is not worth the effort or expense. So I am making the best of it.

My first move has been to take up a couple of rows of paving at the kitchen end so that I can have something growing on the terrace. *Abutilon* x *suntense* went in last spring, to hide the rainwater pipes in the corner, and is now 12ft tall and doing its job perfectly. It is full of *Clematis viticella* and climbing its skirts is purple *Geranium* 'Anne Folkard', alongside *Hydrangea paniculata* and *Choisya ternata*.

Below the terrace was a mean little border — 1ft deep and 30ft long — of lavender, hybrid tea roses and pink-striped field bindweed, which was neither use nor ornament. Instead, I have dug out some lawn (and most of the bindweed) to make a border 7ft deep. I want it to have plenty of substance to act like a hedge of colour under the terrace.

The border runs north-south, and although the house gradually robs it of sunlight after about 1pm in summer, it is light enough for most purposes.

A bigger problem is the buffeting from southeasterly winds which push plants forwards. Herbaceous plants can develop a lean away from the wall, so I shall try a couple of tricks to solve this. The first is to grow a few dense shrubs at the back of the border, which can be allowed, despite the narrow terrace, to bulge backwards on to the paving and break up the exposed edge. There is the small purple *Pittosporum* 'Tom Thumb', *Rosa* 'Penelope' and box.

The box is planted to flank a set of steps which pierces the border at its halfway point, creating a descent from the back door, across the terrace and down again on to the lawn. Previously, there was a little step 1ft wide from terrace to lawn. But I have made new 7ft-wide steps, to make a visual plinth for the door. The flanking hedges of the broad-leaved *Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundifolia' will be clipped into fat, joggling sausages.

These steps have to drop only 1ft over a distance of 7ft (the depth of the border), which means they must be shallow — never the best arrangement for steps. I put in only two steps, but made a third platform down at lawn level. Or, rather, 2in above it: I allowed the thickness of the paving slabs to show above the lawn, to give a clean edge from the fairly rolling grass.

Unfortunately, this garden has a sideways cross fall, with the result that my long terrace is 6in above the lawn at one end and 16in above at the other. The border planting disguises the drop in summer, but in winter it will always be visible.

Sometimes it is worth levelling up a cross fall by regrading the existing soil or importing topsoil. In my garden this would be a big job and it would be expensive to have it done. So I shall trick it out by planting large, heavy evergreens at the low end of the border and beyond to wrap around the end of the house and give the feeling of stability and weight, even if the topography wants to deny it.

I might, just might, put a wooden balustrade-cum-fence at the back of the border, too, to add further weight and protect the border plants from those blustery winds.

WEEKEND TIPS

- ■ Trim the faded flower stalks off lavender bushes and hedges and pinch out the strongest subsequent shoots to encourage bushiness. Avoid cutting hard into old shoots, because they are reluctant to sprout again.
- ■ Sow winter spinach in rows 4in apart, for cropping from November to spring.
- ■ Plant new strawberry plants in soil well-enriched with manure or old compost.
- ■ Begin cutting out old wood from early flowering rambler roses, such as 'Albertine'.
- ■ Give liquid feed to late-flowering clematis, such as 'Jackmannii', every two weeks, and water weekly in hot weather.

Whatever their size, front gardens reflect their owners' personality

CLIFFORD HARPER

Putting on a bold front

Front gardens in towns and villages are remarkable things. They are everybody's little patch of ostentation, and yet what goes on there needs to relate not only to the style of the house itself but to the street as well.

The wonder is that within those limits front gardens can be so different. For me, the pleasure of gardening is partly to be found in seeing how people's ideas and approaches differ.

Even the strip of poor soil between someone's house or garden wall and the pavement beyond can be startlingly varied. This hot, dry, little space can still be a source of pleasure both to gardener and passer-by. Take a look in summer at the ways in which people in one particular Essex village have dressed these unpromising strips and you will enjoy the sheer variety of planting.

Start with that run of ancient timber houses tight on to the street, separated from each other by 6ft flint walls. The walls are strong and plain and need no adornment, although they might bear a patch or two of yellow biting stonecrop and ivy-leaved toadflax. A streak of yellow shows above, from *Rosa* 'Golden Showers' on the other side.

Then there is a grander house, four-square and with a strip of garden under its windows behind swags of painted chain. Here there are mixed, self-seeding wallflowers for spring, and for summer, against the white-plastered walls, ranks of hollyhocks and a few Madonna lilies. It is all very traditional and effortless. Barley grows among the hollyhocks, fallen from passing farm vehicles.

A simpler house of black weather-boarding has the works, but all in baskets. Window boxes and planters of petunias and pelargoniums in bright colours are swagged together with trails of ivy.

The people next door have been reading glossy magazines. Two ochre-patterned Chinese jars flank the door, sitting on a plain cobbled strip. 'White Triumphator' tulips in spring, looking wonderful for weeks on end, are followed by pale pink, trailing, ivy-leaved geraniums and nothing else. It is very chic — but nothing succeeds like simplicity.

Around a corner there is one of those houses which have grown in delicious asymmetry for hundreds of years. Its garden is the same. An aged topiary bird looks down from the garden, watched over in turn by a tall, "modern" eucalyptus tree. Double scarlet geraniums sit cheerfully in the pavement strip, and there are bush roses behind a low retaining wall. Part of the wall is made of weathered limestone fragments and into it have been built 3in clay plant pots, tilted back at an angle and housing purple aubrietias for spring.

Another timber-framed house follows, with unpainted plaster and a gloriously faded, gentle aspect. Between that and the pavement it has a simple strip of pink valerian (where will valerian not grow?) and there is a clipped winter-flowering *Viburnum tinus* for punctuation.

Hot and dry by the door, a rosemary and choisya grow with roots just a few crazy inches apart, in absolute and intimate embrace. Such passion has no time for correct planting distances. In contrast, across the road is a case of rampant cottage gardening, the gable end tight to the pavement, but gloriously encrusted in Rosa 'Albertine' top to bottom, with clipped box flanking the door.

On the main street is a long frontage of creamy pargeting and tan timbers. It has a bigger, yard-wide strip in which grow hollyhocks, casting tall, flying-saucer shadows on the plasterwork, with generous blocks of Rosa 'Iceberg' and a vibrant pink climbing rose around the door.

The Big House has steps to the door and a fine white portal, and calls for no more than wisteria trained all over its dark brick façade, the grey, rope-like trunks looping backwards and forwards in dado fashion at the foot of the wall.

Finally, there is a little wild triangle of land. It is houseless but it must belong to someone. It supports only long grass behind a modest flint wall. A few seedlings of yellow rape lodge at the wall's foot.

But struggling through the grass and nosing over the wall is an old, pink moss rose, smothered in the small, striped, wild pink bindweed. The two are made for each other in a wild garden.

The attraction of all these is that every effect is different. Each is a personal response to the problem of what to grow in the difficult, dry and often dusty strip beside a pavement. *Vive la différence*, I say.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

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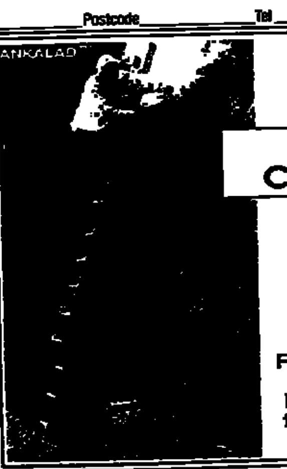

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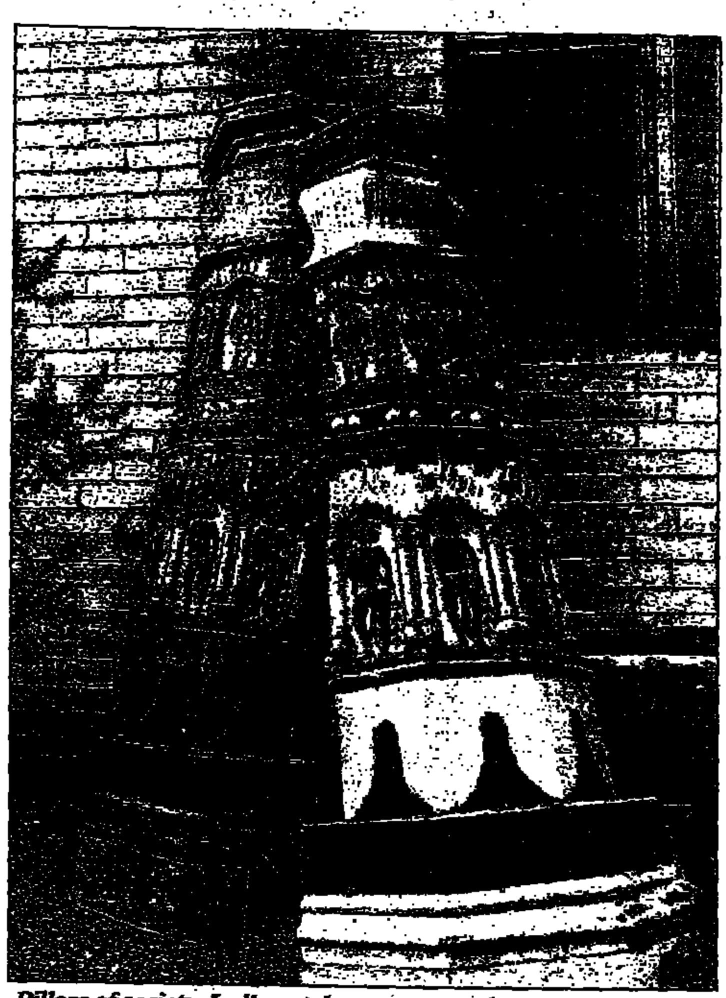
Jane Owen visits one of fashion's original eccentrics, creating an aerial garden near Tower Bridge


Pillars of society: Indian-style ornaments give an exotic flavour

Moving tale of a designer in bloom

ME AND MY GARDEN: ZANDRA RHODES

DENZIL McNEELANCE

A mobile garden: Zandra Rhodes has lovingly nurtured her plants in huge terracotta pots which make a striking display on the terrace of her home near Tower Bridge

Zandra Rhodes, whose frocks sell for about £6,000 apiece, is resplendent from head to toe in one of her colourful designs, complete with bat wings, in her aerial garden.

An east wind is whipping round her extensive terrace, on the top floor of a 1960s warehouse near Tower Bridge, London. She has a mobile garden — all of it planted in huge terracotta pots. When she moved here, last September, her garden had to be hoisted up the outside. Camellias, roses, herbs, broom — the lot.

Her plants were the trickiest items to move, but the ornaments were the easiest: an 8ft long Chac Mool, a sort of reclining Mexican-style figure, and some brightly coloured Indian-style polystyrene pillars from John Aspinall's gambling club. The only problem with the ornaments came when they blew away and landed in the council estate opposite. Rhodes had lived for 25 years in a tall house in Notting Hill, in west London. There, when she wasn't whirling the world's catwalks, she taught herself to garden against all the odds. Her garden received no sunlight, had no soil and suffered from damp, but she created a fecund retreat of ivy and ferns with a herb and rose terrace at second-floor level. Her horticultural knowledge comes from *Gardener's Question Time* tapes which she takes travelling. Rhodes is transforming the warehouse into the Zandra Rhodes Museum of Fashion and Textiles where thousands of modern frocks and fabrics will be on show to the public, but she has found time to sketch plans for the terrace garden. She hopes to build a 10ft brick wall to protect the plants and give privacy, and the John Aspinall pillars will make a colonnade interspersed with pots. The floor will probably be of gravel. The door to the terrace has fierce messages about keeping the pots watered and replacing the bubble-wrap insulation when it blows away. Like many gardeners, she worries whether her plants will be watered enough in her absence.

Rhodes intends to plant a Kiftsgate, the overwhelming creamy-white rose which originated in the Gloucestershire garden of that name, which will grow up the front of the stark building. That may be joined by an *Actinidia kolomikta*, the vine whose leaves develop startling pink and white tips as they mature.

She hopes to extend the garden into the museum with small indoor Japanese-style beds lit from above by skylights — plant wells, as Zandra calls them. Around the walls glazed arrow slits will provide light for more plants. The decor inside is predictably Zandra Rhodes: vivid reds and dazzling golds, calshing with pinks and orange, and great swags of gorgeous fabrics.

On a wall, in the midst of all this excellent bad taste, is an exquisite botanical watercolour of a stinging nettle in flower. The style is Dürer, the artist a young student called Zandra Rhodes. Her interest in plants has been with her since art school, a startling foil to her exoticism.

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q **My three-year-old 'Prinz Handjery' sycamore made its green-and-plum leaves as usual in spring but now they are going brown and falling. There are still some sound buds on the tree. What is the problem?** — C. Sarson. Rugby. Warwickshire.

A Young sycamores, especially the fancy ones such as the purplish *Acer pseudoplatanus* 'Prinz Handjery' and the peachey 'Brilliantissimum' which get planted in warm, sheltered places, can suffer so much from aphids that the leaves are sucked dry and fall prematurely. After three years, neither drought nor the wet June could cause this problem. Had the leaves died but remained on the tree, it would be much more of a worry: that would mean the tree itself was dead. I expect your tree will recover next year, even if it does not regain a full canopy this year. Look for aphids, especially beneath the leaves.

Q **I have a 15-year-old prostrate *Juniperus communis* 'Repanda', which is 10ft across and impeding the driveway. Could I take a foot off all round? It is beginning to get a bit humpy in the middle, which I presume is because of its age.** — Miss B.R. Masters, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

A All junipers start to get rather lumpy and craggy in middle age. Hard pruning sometimes produces new shoots from old wood, or from the base, but it is unpredictable and the plant will never regain the trimness of youth. If you need to take only 1ft off, do it by nibbling back some of the branches; take some branches back by a couple of feet (if you can do it invisibly) so that light is admitted and the plant thickens its growth further back. Do it now. Next year you could take off the bits you left sticking out this year. After that, do a little frequently, two or three times a year, so that hard pruning is unnecessary.

Q **After numerous attempts we have at last got the Scottish flame flower, *Tropaeolum speciosum*, to establish itself in our garden from pieces of rhizome. In its second year it has reached 5ft into a hedge of honeysuckle and clematis. But instead of being scarlet the flowers are a drab yellow. Why?** — B. Clarke. Oxford.

A I cannot help thinking that this is a case of mistaken identity. There is no yellow form of this glorious climber, but there are yellow or yellowish species of tropaeolum (nasturtium) which are perennial. I have sometimes seen the climber *Eccremocarpus* taken for Scottish flame flower, and it does indeed have a drab, orangey-yellow form, which is popular at the moment. But this, of course, has tendrils at the ends of its leaves, like a pea, whereas the tropaeolum just winds itself around things. The flame flower has a much more succulent, running root, like bindweed, and is hard to mistake, except with bindweed or alstroemeria. If you really have the right plant, and it continues to be yellow, then either it is sick or it is something very special. Usually, when the plant is lime-sick, it does not grow at all, so I do not see the yellowing of your plant being caused by lime.

● *Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend*, The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. We regret that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

ANDREW HASSON

Fay Armitage, a volunteer gardener, gave up her job as wardrobe mistress at Her Majesty's Theatre, London, for less stressful work in the grounds of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton

National labours of love

Some of our best-known gardens are maintained by an army of volunteers whose only reward is to watch them bloom. **Barbara Abbs** reports

Some visitors to gardens open to the public occasionally get agitated when they see elderly gardeners with walking sticks trying to weed a steep rock bank, or a child patiently bedding out plants. They should look again. These are not the Dickensian working practices of Scrooge-like garden owners, but a rapidly growing phenomenon: the volunteer gardener.

A passion for gardening seems to be inherent in some of us, and for the genetically predisposed who haven't yet acquired a garden, or have loved and lost one, volunteering fills a great need. The opportunities are nationwide.

Among those which use volunteer labour are: Heligan Gardens in Cornwall; the Royal Horticultural Society garden at Rosemoor in Devon; the Plantation Garden in Norwich, the Lakeland Horticultural Society's garden at Holehird in Cumbria; Ness Botanic Gardens, near Liverpool; the Petersfield Physic and West Dean gardens, Hampshire; the Royal Pavilion garden in Brighton, East Sussex; and many National Trust gardens are among those properties. The unpaid enthusiasts can be the entire work force in gardens managed by non-commercial trusts; in others, they may do preliminary clearance and restoration, and in some, they just ice the garden cake.

The Lakeland Horticultural Society's five-acre garden, near Windermere, was the first garden to use volunteers. One person is responsible for the layout and maintenance of each flower bed. A certain amount of friendly rivalry ensures high standards; no one wants their particular plot to be singled out as the one with the weeds in it. Large works, such as the removal of a tree, have to be agreed by the gardens committee, otherwise each gardener has a considerable amount of freedom in what to plant.

The Petersfield Physic Garden has a similar structure, except that planting is restricted: only 17th-century plants are used.

In gardens which already have professional staff, tasks tend to be more circumscribed. At Brighton, volunteers are given a list of tasks for the day and an explanation of how to do them. Jobs include weeding, hoeing, pricking out, pinching out, harvesting and pot scrubbing. This may sound dull to non-gardeners, but it is the stuff of life to many: the opportunity to work in the open, in beautiful surroundings and in congenial company more than makes up for the occasional stint scouring flowerpots. Volunteers can be any age, male or female, with any background or ability, although frequently they come from the ranks of the young retired. In the town-centre Plantation Garden at Norwich, again managed entirely by volunteers, the gardeners are aged from 13 to 72. Several of them live in the nearby flats. The tasks offer the opportunity to do building work and even archaeological excavation under expert supervision in this Victorian garden on the site of a medieval chalk and flint quarry. Back in Brighton, Catherine Phillips, a New Zealander who had had experience of community horticulture while living in the United States, thought there might be an opportunity for her to get involved with the newly restored gardens of the Royal Pavilion. She approached the Pavilion staff and soon found herself co-ordinating a team of volunteers. This is the fourth summer that the pavilion volunteers have been planting and maintaining the Regency garden around the building.

Virginia Hinze, of East Sussex County Council, an expert on garden plants of the Regency period, had drawn up a planting plan. Ms Phillips, as co-ordinator, at first directed the planting, but now most of the garden is run as a democracy and little direction is necessary.

Numbers attending the regular Friday-morning sessions vary from five to 15. Several members had never done any gardening before, while others were experienced amateur gardeners used to pruning and propagating.

One of the newest volunteers, Fay Armitage, moved from London to Brighton about a year ago. She left a job as wardrobe mistress at Her Majesty's Theatre, on *Phantom of the Opera*, for a less stressful but more varied life in Brighton. Her parents were keen gardeners. After moving to the town, she walked through the pavilion grounds, liked the gardens, and noticed the volunteers working there. It did not take her long to decide to join them.

Miss Armitage is unusual among the volunteers in that she is not interested in taking up horticulture as a career; most of the other members of the group have enrolled on taking professional gardening courses and need practical experience. A stint as a volunteer in a public garden looks good on a CV and provides some alternative referees when applying for paid posts.

For most volunteers, however, gardening all day for money might turn one of their greatest pleasures into a chore. It is not a risk they want to take. Some of the volunteers enjoy the social experience, will work in small groups, and chat as they prune, plant out or weed. Others choose to work alone, involving themselves only with the plants.

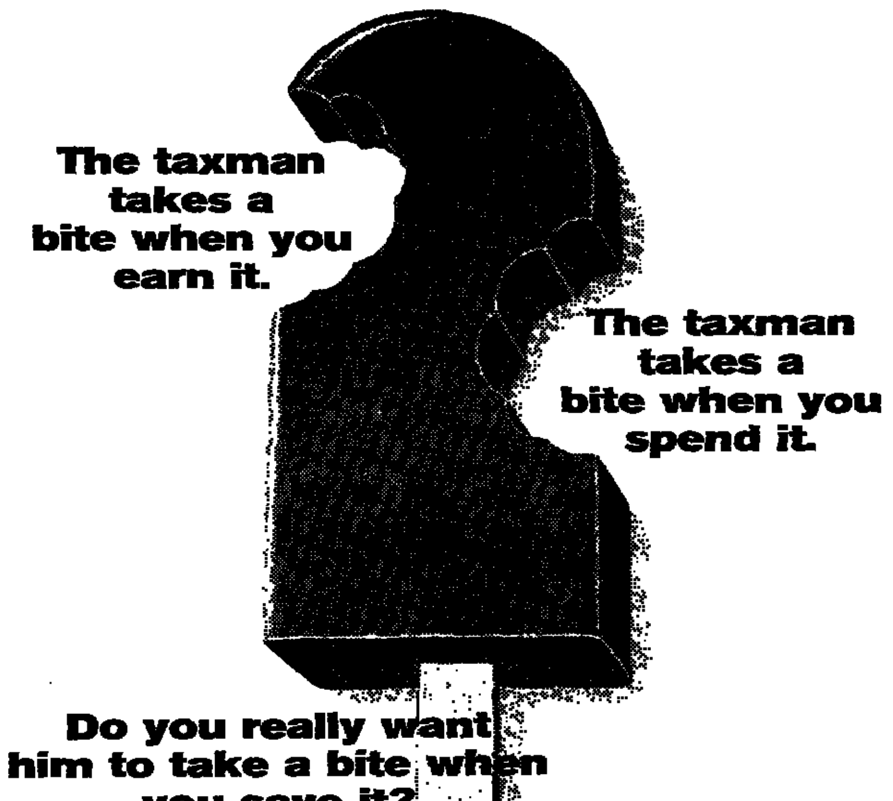
Several well-used paths cross the Royal Pavilion grounds and passers-by take an interest in what goes on there. Volunteers are often engaged in conversation. When the garden changed from the municipal-manicured lawns and bright bedding plants to the present layout of mixed shrub and flower beds around "glades" of longish grass, they were frequently called on to defend the alterations. After four years, the gardens have matured, and comments are invariably complimentary.

The experiment at the pavilion has worked so well that Brighton now has another group of volunteers at Preston Park, which has just received a big lottery award for restoration work.

Volunteers with a week or so to spare, and who would like to do more vigorous work than the planting and maintenance of established gardens should contact the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which organises pond and scrub clearance, path-laying, and other projects, sometimes in historic gardens, such as Heligan but often in other public spaces.

VOLUNTEERS DIRECTORY

- **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, 01491 839766.**
- **Heligan Gardens, Cornwall, 01726 844157. RHS Rosemoor Gardens, Devon 01805 624067. Plantation Garden, Norwich, *01603 611669. Lakeland Horticultural Society, 015394 46008.* Ness Botanic Gardens, Wirral, Cheshire, 0151-353 0123. Petersfield Physic Garden (Hampshire Garden Trust), 01794 367752. West Dean Garden, Hampshire, 01243 818210. Royal Pavilion and Preston Park, Brighton, 01273 472410.**
- **National Trust Volunteer Office, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, 01285 657935, or contact your regional office (see telephone directory). National Trust for Scotland, *0131-226 5922.***



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Plants with a Victorian kiss

■ Ascott, Wing, Buckinghamshire (01296 688242).

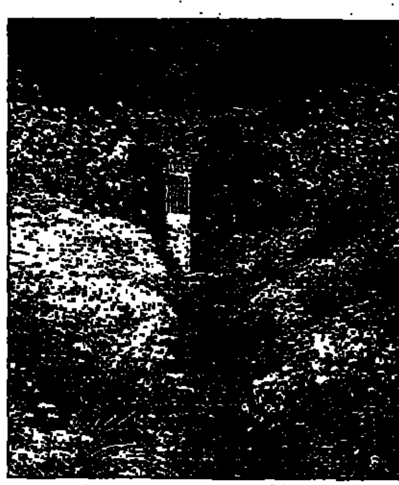
Two miles southwest of Leighton Buzzard, off A418. Open tomorrow for National Garden Scheme; Wednesday afternoons and the last Sunday in August. Tues-Sun in Sept; all 2-6 pm (last entrance 5pm). £4, children £2.

High Victorian style and standards of presentation are retained at Ascott, perhaps the most intriguing of the group of Rothschild family houses and gardens that stand close to one another in the Chilterns. Today the Rothschild family and the National Trust look after Ascott.

It is easy to forget that you are in the Home Counties as you look out over the Vale of Aylesbury. In recent years, ambitious new designs by Arabella Lennox-Boyd have complemented the garden's memorable 19th-century features, such as the green and golden yew topiary (especially the sundial, the fountains and statue groups by the American sculptor Ralph Waldo Story), and the combination of terraced lawns and now mature specimen trees. The double herbaceous border, displaying faultless symmetry, is at its peak and a walk lined by beech hedges leads to the lily pool.

Although the 30 acres are instantly recognised as Victorian, there is so much variety that, whatever your interest, there will be something to absorb you.

GARDENS TO VISIT



Outstanding borders at Pitmuies

■ House of Pitmuies, Guthrie by Forfar, Scotland (01241 828245).

Seven miles east of Forfar, via A932. Open daily until Oct 31, 10am-5 pm. £2.

To one side of the 18th-century house walled gardens contain a series of outstandingly planned borders: a double herbaceous border extending away from the house planted in shades of yellow, blue, cream and white; quantities of old-fashioned roses and a spectacular show of delphiniums. In one place the borders are backed by hedging of clipped purple plum; elsewhere it is yew. Wherever you look, there's something new to admire: the white-painted gateway at the end of one vista or the short avenue of copper-barked *Prunus serrula*. The garden's atmosphere can only be fully appreciated when you have taken in the tranquil contrast of the riverside walk, shaded by mature oak and beech, which leads past a dovecote and a Gothic wash-house.

■ Brockhole, Lake District National Park Centre, Windermere, Cumbria (015394 46601).

Near Ben Windermere and Ambleside on A591. Open daily to Nov 2; 10am-5pm. Car parking £2.50-£3.50.

The garden's first quality is natural: the outlook west over Windermere to the fells. Its design, by Thomas Mawson, is dominated by a series of formal terraces and its strongly architectural structure is clothed in an absorbing array of plants. The sloping site ensures that frost drains away. Consequently, there are a number of tender plants, such as the weeping tree *Cupressus cashmeriana*, and flowering shrubs that originate from New Zealand. Below the terraces is a meadow dotted in summer with wild flowers.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

هكذا من الأصل

هدايا من الاهل

'If I could work out what purpose was served by wasps I would not grumble, but I cannot think of one, nor have I ever read of one'

Time to fight the buzzing nuisance

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

Twice within the past week my hand has been grasped enthusiastically as I have been led down garden paths to be shown what I was assured was a miracle of nature. These brief expeditions to the shadier recesses of orchards and sheds were conducted in hushed tones; voices were dropped, as when Attenborough whispers among gorillas. I was being taken to see nature at her most miraculous, God's creation in all its glory. They said.

So why did it leave me cold? Why did I find myself curbing my impatient urge to say, "Oh, come on .... just spray it with something. Put it to the torch. Nuke it. Anything!"

The problem is the inmates of the miracle: wasps. I have no time for wasps and they have never shown anything other than dislike for me. So when I am shown the home where they breed, and from which they launch offensives, I cannot bring myself to marvel at the sight of it.

This is prejudice. Had it been the handiwork of any other species, I would have stood there with jaw dropping at the intricate beauty of its construction. A wasps' nest is the size of a football — at least, these were — built apparently of fine tissue which looks so delicate that a breeze might send it tumbling across the lawn.

This, presumably, was why one of the nests had been cunningly balanced between a pear tree and the garden wall. The other nest was high in rafters away from draughts.

I was told that the nests were woven from fine crumbs of wood, collected by the wasps as they perched on trees, doors and window frames, masticated till they reached the texture of wet papier mâche and then crafted into an intricate and delicate maze which became their home. I could not care less. Even if wasps were awarded the contract to construct the Millennium Dome, I would refuse to be impressed.

Try this game for yourself. Draw two columns on a sheet of paper headed "For" and "Against". Now think of wasps and start filling in the columns. If anyone makes a sensible entry in the "For" column, I think they should be locked in a roomful of wasps until they have learnt their lesson. Yet, curiously, despite the nuisance value of these creatures, country wisdom has never been directed towards their control or extermination.

Ferrets have been schooled to deal with rabbits, terriers will take on rats, but what do we have in our rural armoury to halt the wasp in its evil tracks? A jar of jam with the lid left off, half-filled with water. Does it work? No. This incompetent wasp trap is without doubt one of the most depressing sights of summer. For the jar to be effective at keeping wasps from public places, such as kitchens and garden seats, it has to be situated near these sites. This attracts even more wasps, and we are afforded a depressing view of a seething mass of striped vermin greedily going for the last traces of the jam, and falling bloated into the water to join their dead or dying compatriots.

Worse, some of the wasps do not drown. Instead, they gather enough jam to fortify themselves for a further assault on nearby humans before the final kamikaze dive into the watery grave. By then, you have probably been stung, a child's tea ruined, a bottle of wine spilt in a failed attempt at swatting and tempers forced closer to breaking point.

If there were a purpose to wasps I would not grumble, but I cannot think of one, nor have I ever read of one. Be assured I am not in any way phobic about buzzing creatures; I happily endure visits from any foraging honey bee, because I know he is going about a useful purpose.

But wasps exist only to satisfy their greed and to irritate people.

I dare you to disagree. Even if you escape a stinging, they have other ways to get you. I have a tree laden with ripening Victoria plums. Wasps wait until the day before the plums are ready to be picked, then take one suck and leave the rest to rot. They got them all last year.

Flies, of course, come a close second to wasps as the most pointless species of all time; and if we consider flora as well, I would be pleased to hear what purpose the stinging nettle serves. What is it trying to protect by its sting? Itself? If so, why does the sting not bother its likeliest destroyers: cattle, sheep and horses? Who says nature knows best?

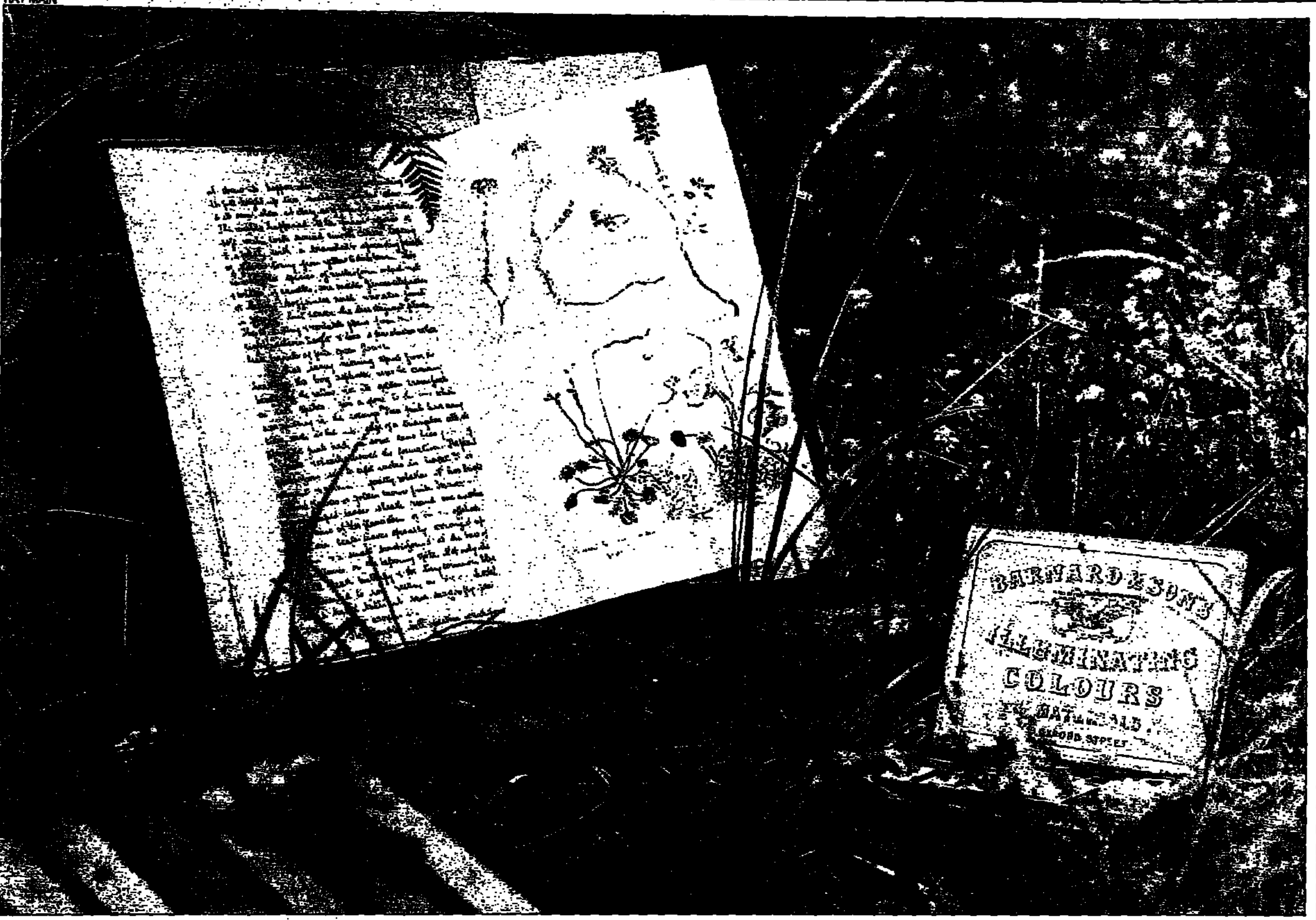
Accordingly, I have no conscience whatsoever about inviting ideas on how — without chemicals — wasps can be controlled, or at least given a bad time.

I have had enough of their bullying ways and it is time to stand and fight. I would love to redress the balance of fear and discomfort. All suggestions are welcome and evidence of their effectiveness would be appreciated.

Remembering the furore over a rat-killing debate I once started in these pages, I think we should rule out sadism. In fact, if there is anyone who loves wasps and wants to conserve them, I would be pleased to hear from them. But I am not holding my breath.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

RAY MAIN



Miss Hitchman's illustrated work reflecting the beauty of a wooded bog stands the test of time. The area will not be affected by the controversial Newbury bypass

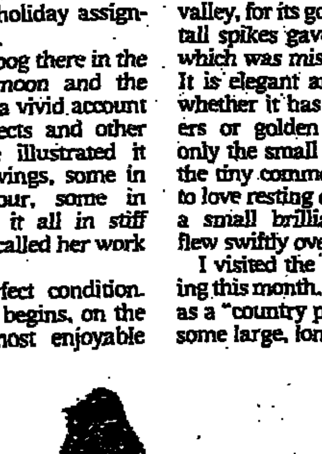
The lady of Newbury bog

Not much has changed on a Berkshire common since a young woman lovingly detailed its flora and fauna in her diary

In August 1915, while British soldiers were struggling to secure a foothold on the shores of the Dardanelles, a young woman visited a bog near Newbury, Berkshire. Her name was Marion Hitchman, she was 20, and she was doing a teachers' training course at Whitelands College in the King's Road, Chelsea. Her home was in Newbury, where her father was a well known builder, and she went to Snelsmore Common, four miles north of the town, as part of a holiday assignment for the college.

She explored the bog there in the morning, the afternoon and the evening, and wrote a vivid account of the flowers, insects and other wildlife there. She illustrated it with beautiful drawings, some in ink and watercolour, some in pencil, and bound it all in stiff brown boards. She called her work *Bogging*.

It is still in perfect condition. "Bogging," Marion begins, on the lined paper, "is most enjoyable work, especially in summertime." The bog is "in a slight dip or valley between a gorse-covered hill and sharply rising heathland. From either ridge small streamlets trickle into a brook with splashing waterfalls at the lower end of the bog. The brook has cut a six-foot 'gorge' in the gravelly soil; it runs along the bottom of this into a well-wooded basin-shaped glen. There are several very marshy parts in the bog from which turf and moss have been cut".



In Marion's fine, simple prose, it seems like a lost pastoral vision — and her delight in it bursts out at the foot of the first page: "The first expedition in the morning was a brilliant success as far as my enjoyment was concerned. The sun was rather hot and glaring, but this helped to show up the bog treasures and encouraged insects and plants to come out. The air was sweet and fresh after much rain."

The flowers bring out her best writing. "The cross-leaved heath grows in the heart of the bog. Its leaves are pale sage green and hairy. The flowers of this species grow in terminal heads of drooping rose-coloured flowers, which all turn to one side. The whole flower appears as if modelled in wax ... On that sunny morning, apart from the heather, the bog asphodel was the crowning beauty of the valley, for its golden brown fruits in tall spikes gave a glow to the bog which was missing in the evening. It is elegant and extremely pretty whether it has bright yellow flowers or golden brown fruits. Not only the small heath butterfly and the tiny common blue one seemed to love resting on the asphodel, but a small brilliant blue dragonfly flew swiftly over and around it."

I visited the common one morning this month. It is now designated as a "country park", but it still has some large, lonely stretches of oak, and some wild heathland with nightjars nesting on it. The map shows two boggy areas on the south side of the common, which are not far from the route of the controversial Newbury bypass (some of the protesters are still there). The larger bog seemed most likely to be the one that Marion had surveyed, and from the car park I walked down a path through the oaks towards it. The wood soon gave way to bracken-covered hillside and the path became damper.

Then, on my right, I saw the bog. It was unmistakable. Small birch trees covered both sides of the valley above the bracken, but at the foot of the valley there was the pink sphagnum moss, the lilac heather and — most thrilling sight of all — the golden and yellow bog asphodel, dotted everywhere.

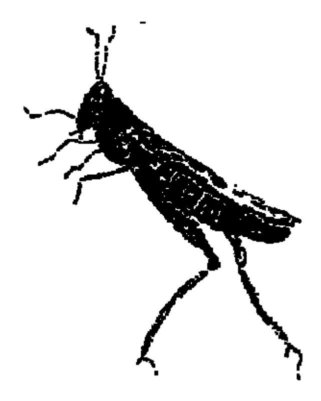
Clearly, the bog was drier than it had been in Marion's time. There were young birch trees in the centre of the bog, with the moss and the water plants winding between them in the stream, which was now just a seeping, invisible flow of water underfoot.

Marion Hitchman: assignment

Invisible, that is, until I stood too long in one place, and sank. I got several bootfuls of water that way. Perhaps in Marion's time the bog was deliberately kept clear and wet, for the sake of the turf and moss that were cut from it. Further down the valley, I identified the deep gorge where the brook finally appeared and the glen beyond it. A house now stands at the far end.

It was among the flowers in the marshy part of the bog that I felt most strongly the sense of wonder at walking among the scenes Marion had known. Not all the flowers she described were there — I looked for lousewort, milkwort, and sundew in vain (though I was told that the fly-catching sundew leaves are to be found there). But a little yellow flower climbed everywhere over the grass and cross-leaved heath — and there it was in her pages: "Another yellow flower found all over the bog was creeping tormentil. It can be distinguished from creeping cinquefoil because its leaves are sessile."

This is the botanical term for stalkless — and sure enough, that is what these leaves were. There were also fluffy cotton grass and soft rush, both of which she describes, and though I did not see any spotted orchids, I found a marsh orchid languishing among some tall, wet grass. But the bog asphodels, many of which still had their delicate yellow petals, were still the heart of the scene. Marion does not mention birds very much, but she heard a woodpecker tapping in a beech tree near the bog, and on her evening visit talks of the lark and peewit "following the rest of the creatures to rest". I did not hear the lark or peewit, but I saw a green woodpecker fly over, while a willow warbler was singing in the birches and a yellowhammer on the heath.



Marion handed in her report to her college and a note marks it "A", adding "Good work. Illustrations Ex" (which I take to mean "excellent"). She qualified as a teacher on August 1, 1916, and spent her career in infants' schools.

I have a roll of yellowing letters of recommendation. "She has a most delightful manner in dealing with children, is most patient, thorough, and has a never-failing sense of humour," wrote the headmistress of Highgate School in 1928. In 1937, the vicar of St George's, Hornsey, wrote: "She has a personality and charm of manner which give her complete control of her class and very obviously attract the children to her. She is a born teacher." What a joy to read of such teaching!

In spite of this evident ease with children, Marion never married. Neither did her sister, Isobel, and they lived together in London for many years. Perhaps the men they might have married died in the Dardanelles or on the Western Front.

When she retired, Marion returned to Newbury. She died, five years ago, at the age of 97. Her *Bogging* study and the other correspondence were found in her cottage after her death by her step-nephew, Frank Hitchman, now the finance director of a large insurance broking firm (Marion's father married again after her mother died, and she had a stepbrother and stepsister. The stepbrother, who was Frank's father, became deputy head of the Atomic Energy Authority and retired as Sir Alan Hitchman). Marion does not seem to have done any more drawing or painting, although late in life she is reported to have said: "I would have gone to art school if there had been enough money."

The family connection with Newbury also appears to have faded. The building firm Hitchman (Newbury) Ltd survives, but is no longer owned by any of the family.

By a miracle, as it might seem, the bog is still there, 80 years after Marion wrote about it. In a year or two, the roar of traffic on the bypass will be audible from it, but I see no reason why it should change in other ways. There might be a case for the local authority to cut back the trees and restore it further.

Some of Marion's pupils will remember her. Otherwise, I think the yellow bog asphodels of Snelsmore Common must be her memorial.

DERWENT MAY

Something to crow about

FEATHER REPORT

IF ONE talks of a "crow" in England and Wales, one generally means a carrion crow, that glossy black marauder and scavenger that is now so abundant in towns as well as in the countryside (*writes Derwent May*). In north-west Scotland and Ireland, however, the crows are of a different race. They are hooded crows, which have grey bodies, black wings and tail, and what looks exactly like a black hood over their head.

Carrion crows are found all over France, but when you get to the Alps, hooded crows appear again, and I was watching them last week on the mountainsides above Lake Como in northern Italy. They were much more sinister-looking than carrion crows. They spend a lot of time up on the high crags, but also come down to the lakeside to feed on the shore, and they like to perch on the very tip of the tall, thin cypress trees in the gardens of the villas. When they sat up there, swaying to and fro, their hoods gave them the appearance of executioners eagerly waiting for their victims.

Up on the crags, the hooded crows eyed some other birds flitting around them — the crag martins. These are little brown martins, quite closely related to our house martins, but found only as rare vagrants in northern Europe. The crows would no doubt have liked to get at the martins' nests, but it would have been very difficult for them. There was a deep hollow in the cliff and through field glasses I could make out the martins' mud nests, like half-cups, hanging under its shady roof. There was nowhere a crow could perch — and the "hoodies" must have contented themselves with catching lizards on the slopes.

They cawed and made rolling, clicking sounds like the crows of England. One or two ornithologists have claimed that they can recognise subtle differences in the voices of the two forms, but other ornithologists have poured scorn on this claim. Their cries seemed identical to me. They live indolent lives in the Italian sunshine, often flying out and chasing each other, tumbling and dodging to one side in the air in a playful way.

Why are there these two races of crow? They are closely enough related to interbreed where the two populations meet, and indeed there is a narrow hybrid zone running across Scotland. So they are regarded as a single species. But they remain distinct populations. The Scottish and Irish birds are quite cut off from the other vast area occupied by hooded crows, which runs from southern Europe up into east Asia.

It is now thought that they were originally a single form, which was divided into two populations in the Ice Age and developed their differences while they were apart. They met again when the ice melted. The real mystery is why the hybrids on the boundaries do not thrive. You would have expected that by now there would have been such interbreeding between them that the two races would have totally merged again.

Still, it is to our advantage. The greater the variety in the bird world, the more delightful and intriguing it is.

● **What's about:** *Birders — a lesser sand plover at Pagham Harbour, West Sussex; aquatic warblers around The Fleet, Dorset. Cory's shearwaters at Porthgwarra, Cornwall. Twitchers — look out for flocks of swallows and house martins gathering to migrate south.*

Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

PETER BROWN

A hooded crow looks sinister

ON THE SPOT: MARTINDALE, CUMBRIA

Rural recommendations

The place: Martindale Old Church, Martindale, Cumbria.

The view: the tiny church is sheltered by fells. To the north is majestic Hallin Fell and to the south, the more sprawling Beda Fell.

Aficionados: a lone farmer and his family — this place is remote.

Historical interest: the church is home to a 700-year-old yew tree from which the bowmen of Martindale replenished their arrows.

Time to visit: in late afternoon you should have the place to yourself.

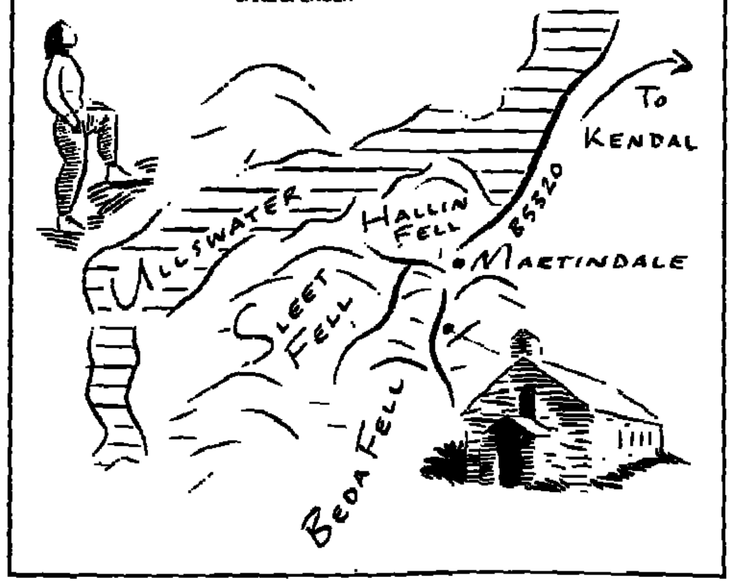
How to get there: A6 from Kendal, B5320 towards Pooley Bridge, turn left towards Martindale valley with Ullswater on your right.

OS reference: Sheet 90, Grid Ref: 185/434

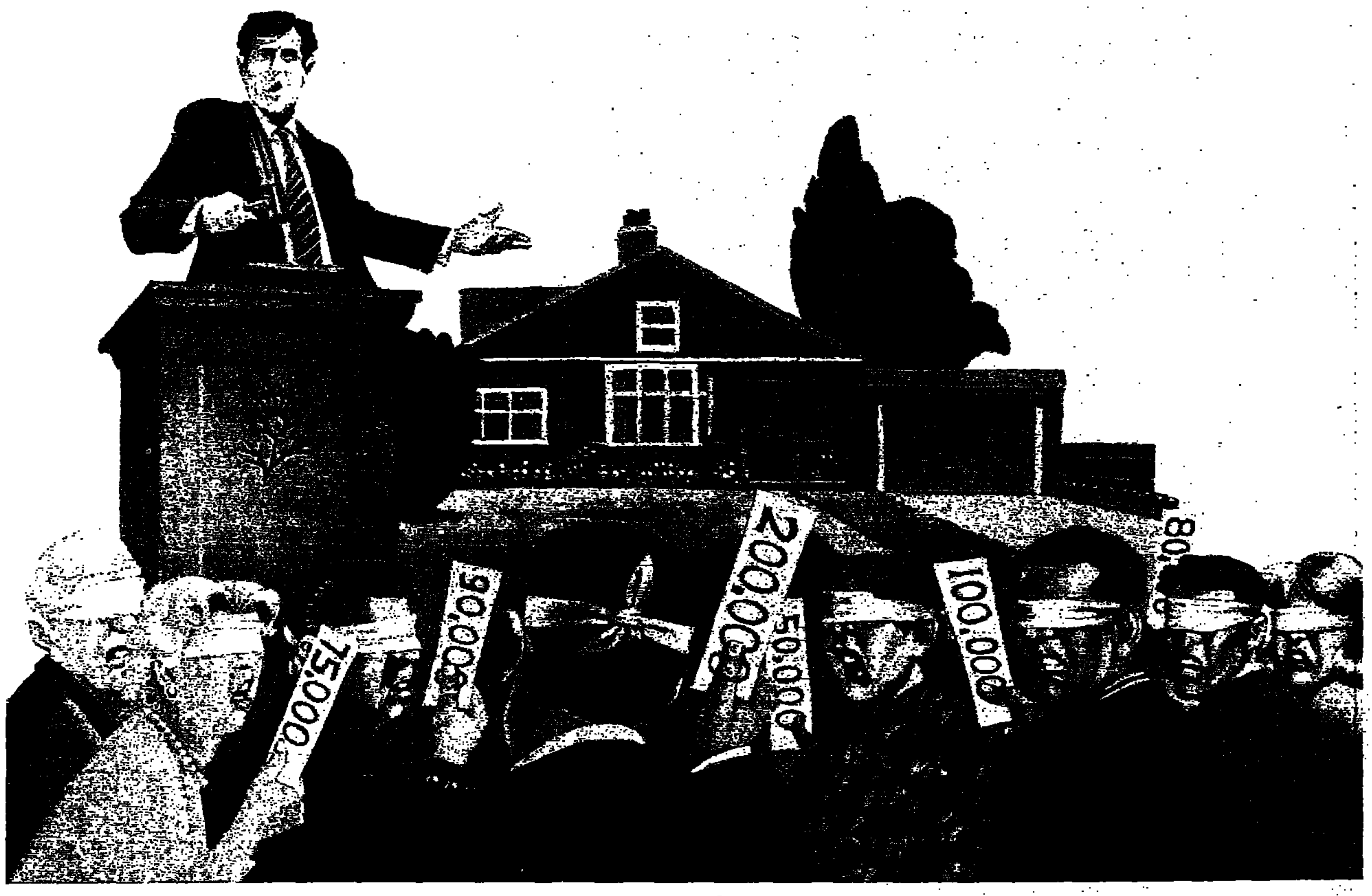
Also nearby: Winter Crag farmhouse offers bed and breakfast and there are glorious walks in the area.

DEBORAH KING

JANE SPENCER



We should be wary of adopting Scotland's system of house-buying, says **Matthew Beard**



ROY ELLSWORTH

Can we stump the gazumpers?

Ever since the housing market started to show an upturn, prospective buyers have been plagued by fears of gazumping. The practice of selling a property to a higher bidder after a previous offer has been accepted has re-emerged due to a shortage of good properties. At the same time, people are anxious to get on the property ladder as prices continue to rise.

Buyers are learning how sellers can be transformed from being otherwise decent, upstanding people into unprincipled sharks prepared to renege on a deal because the financial gain can be great — and because they can get away with it legally.

As the Government tries to eradicate gazumping, the system of house-buying in Scotland is being touted as a possible solution for England and Wales.

Gazumping north of the border carries severe penalties and is extremely rare. Under the Scottish system, when an offer is accepted it is binding and if either party then pulls out the other sues for damages. The speed of this system is one of its merits and it is made possible because surveys and searches — the cause of so much delay in England and Wales — are carried out *before* an offer is made.

However, this can leave househunters out of pocket if there is a boom or a scarcity of property on the market, and bids frequently fail.

In one fashionable area of Edinburgh, where two and three-bedroom flats are soaring in price, stiff competition means buyers will have to bid for several different properties before striking lucky.

"Even if they're only having the most basic valuation done, if they fail five times you're talking about £600 in surveyors' fees without having achieved anything," says John Urquart, a lawyer for the Nationwide building society and former chairman of the conveyancing committee of the Law Society of Scotland.

Surveyors may be less concerned because a survey carried out on one property can be very profitable if they are approached by other bidders — up to ten in some cases.

Attempts to protect the buyer from the cost of multiple surveys have foundered. A proposal to introduce a single survey paid for by the seller proved unacceptable to some lenders, and many buyers did not trust a survey carried out for the seller.

Some estate agents offer discounts after the first survey, although these only apply on deals handled by that agency.

Also causing problems during a property boom is the standard practice of "blind bidding" where would-be buyers are not allowed to know until after the sale how much their rivals are offering. The recent buyers of a property in Edinburgh West End were shocked to discover their accepted bid of £170,000 was £50,000 more than the next highest.

Alan Baxter of Slater, Hogg and Howison, one of Scotland's largest estate agents, says that in Bearsden, a popular commuter area north of Glasgow, a "hungry band" of bidders is trying to second-guess the highest bid and is chasing prices up by 30 to 40 per cent.

Once the offer is accepted there is no going back. Although details remain to be hammered out by solicitors, the winning bid becomes part of the exchange of contracts and it is not usual to make a bid subject to contract and survey.

The problem is not that the buyer loses out — he may have benefited from an upturn in the market by selling for a handsome profit — but that blind bidding inflates already-escalating prices.

As Mr Urquart explains: "Desperation creeps in after the third or fourth attempt and the buyer is determined to get the property he wants and this has the effect of increasing prices at the wrong time. In a buyers' market there was a 'subject-to-offer' clause because they thought it was a risk they could take, but that is disappearing now as the market picks up again."

Most people agree that, under normal circumstances, blind bidding is quick and fair. It offers a clinical deal by an agreed closing date and avoids the worst excesses of the Dutch auction as seen in England.

Until fairly recently many Scottish properties were sold at auction, and this is still used for repossessed properties. Although it appeals to buyers, it is hard to manage — for example if you are trying to buy something else — and there is little enthusiasm for it among property professionals.

Mr Urquart says it would be wise to learn from the deficiencies of the Scottish system. "With the market-place much bigger in England, the effect of multiple surveys combined with blind bidding would create a lot of pressure and could be inflationary at precisely the wrong time."

LOOKING AT **THE SCOTTISH MODEL**

The Scottish system of house selling is one of several that will be considered by ministers as they conduct a study, announced earlier this month, of house buying and selling in England and Wales.

Following a manifesto pledge, the Government has undertaken to look at more than 1,000 house sales around the country.

Estate agents, surveyors and solicitors will also have their say on how every aspect of house buying — from making an offer to handing over the keys — can be improved.

Although the study aims to scrutinise the role of solicitors, mortgage sellers and the fees they charge, the greatest interest is likely to focus on measures to eradicate the menace of gazumping.

Earlier this year the Consumer Affairs minister Nigel Griffiths said that changes in the law would be modelled on the Scottish system while keeping in mind the financial drawbacks of purchasers carrying out surveys before making an offer.

In Scotland an agreed offer is a binding contract with stringent penalty clauses and, with the government study due for completion next spring, a variation on this could soon come into force, signalling the end of gazumping.

Latest indications suggest that the Government favours a costs-guarantee scheme in which buyer and seller have to place a deposit with solicitors — as much as five per cent of the purchase price — when an offer is accepted.

Any party who withdrew would forfeit the deposit to cover costs such as legal fees, surveys and searches.

If buyers and sellers fail to volunteer for the scheme, it may become a legal requirement. But estate agents say this alone would not eradicate gazumping.

Earlier this month the National Association of Estate Agents called on lenders and local authorities to review their systems because, the NAEA says, they open the way to gazumpers by failing to turn around mortgage applications and searches quickly enough.

Bodies representing property professionals have also been asked to sign up to an extended ombudsman scheme which would cover nearly three quarters of firms and provide an independent complaints procedure for most homebuyers and sellers.

Another option is the use of lockout agreements between buyer and seller whereby the seller promises not to accept any other offers as the two parties move towards completion. If the seller breaks the undertaking, the buyer can sue for damages. However, critics say this scheme would be hard to police.

In a further move to cut out gazumping, agents could be obliged to notify buyers if they re-market the property after an offer has been accepted.

THE **WINNERS**

JOHN MUIR, a retired building society manager, and his wife Ann, are assured of financial security after the sale of their house in Edinburgh.

When they put the detached house they had been living in for 17 years up for sale, during a property peak, it attracted seven bidders because it is in a suburban area popular with affluent young professionals.

Because people were bidding blind and all trying to top what they imagined would be the next highest bid, the asking price of £120,000 was easily beaten. The Muirs took the highest of six bids at £168,000.

They gained full benefit of this premium because they bought their retirement home — an £86,000 luxury flat in the city centre — from a builder at 1996 prices, before building work had begun.

THE **LOSERS**

JULIE MARSHALL, a media sales executive bought a terraced house in Glasgow's fashionable West End last month but immediately wished she hadn't.

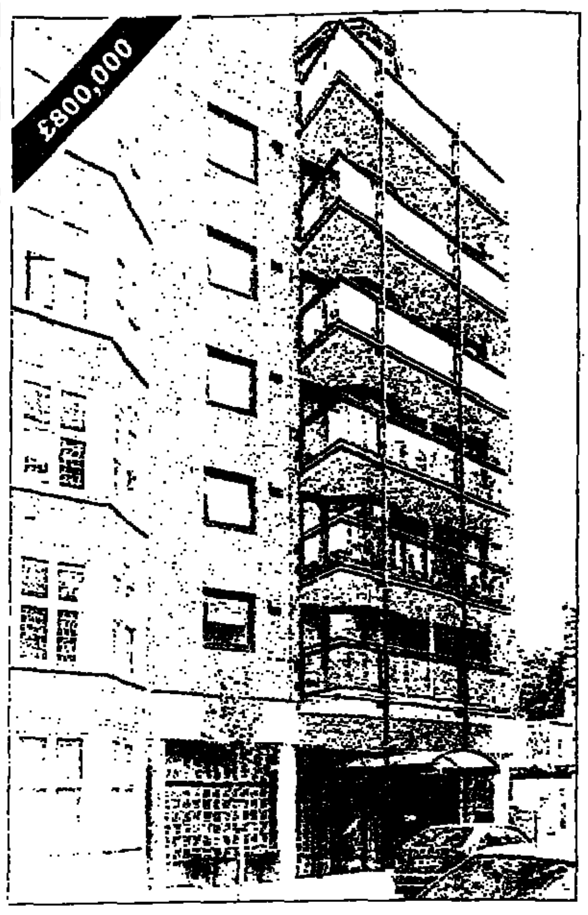
She sold her previous house for 10 per cent more than the asking price to move. At the third attempt her offer was accepted after she bid slightly more than she had intended.

She said: "I was delighted to get the house I wanted, but it did annoy me that I had gone £8,000 more than the next highest bidder.

"In some ways it would seem fairer if there were a straightforward auction. Everyone would know what everybody else was bidding and could pull out when they wanted to. That must be better than finding out you have thrown away a lot more than necessary."

HOMESWAP

What the same money will buy around the country



For £800,000 you could buy a long lease (more than 90 years) on this three-bedroom, two-bathroom maisonette, with a terrace, on the sixth and seventh floors of a modern block in Pullman Court, Drayton Gardens, London SW10. (Beaney Pearce, 0171-589 1333).

In North Yorkshire, £800,000 would stretch to Bilbrough Manor, near York, a Grade II listed ten-bedroom Edwardian country house in 42 acres of formal gardens, park and woodland, with views over the Yorkshire Dales. It is perfect for entertaining, with four ballroom-sized reception rooms, a two-room flat and a self-contained two-bedroom annexe. (Knight Frank, 01904 671672).

Spend the same sort of money in Edgbaston, a mile from Birmingham city centre, and you could have Spring Cottage, a charming Grade II listed six-bedroom Regency house in 2.3 acres of ornamental gardens and grounds. It comes with a self-contained converted coachhouse and a lake. (Knight Frank, 01789 297735).

CHERYL TAYLOR

PROPERTY PROFILE: CHESHIRE

A weekly look at the property market around Britain

Attractions: Chester's galleried arcades, its medieval and roman city walls and cathedral have been admired by many travellers, including Nathaniel Hawthorne and Boswell. Cheshire was home to the Victorian novelist Elizabeth Gaskell, who based several of her novels in the county, including *Cranford*, a tale of 19th-century village life, which drew much from her girlhood at Knutsford, along with Holmes Chapel, Tarporley, Alderley Edge and Chester. Knutsford is much sought after by buyers. Agents emphasise the area's commuter road links with the M6, M53, M56 and M62 and the A55/A5 from Chester to Holyhead. InterCity services from Chester to London take about two hours and Manchester Airport is within easy reach.

The market: Steady, but good, agents say. Strutt & Parker in Chester reckons that turnover has increased, with a good range of properties for sale in varying price ranges. Jackson-Stops & Staff in Chester reports a number of cash buyers, which has injected confidence into the market.

Prices: These have risen by 10 to 15 per cent for prime properties, says Strutt & Parker. Jackson-Stops estimates that prices fell by 25 to 30 per cent from around 1990 to 1991, with the market bottoming out in 1992 to 1993. Cavendish Ikin in Tarporley says prices began to pick up in autumn 1995.

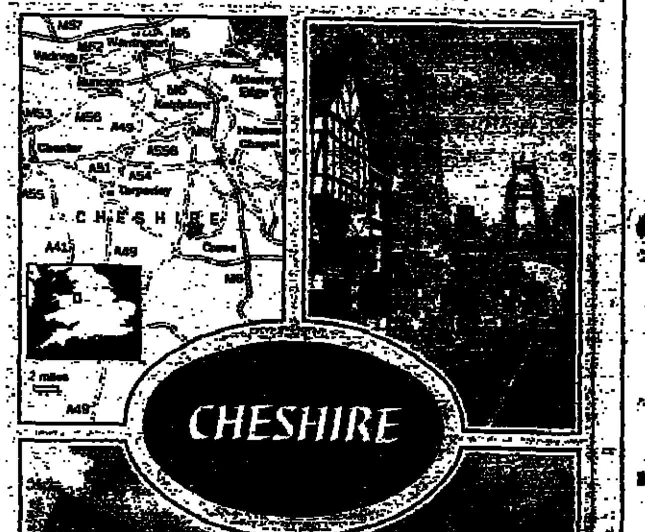
Expect to pay: From £120,000 to £150,000 for a three-bedroom cottage; £200,000 to £300,000 for a farmhouse with land, and £350,000 to £550,000 for a medium-size country house, Jackson-Stops says. Demand for old rectories, with around five acres and in a good commutable location, outstrips supply, according to Strutt & Parker.

Significant sale: Grade I listed Brereton Hall recently sold through Strutt & Parker for close to its £1.3 million asking price. The Elizabethan mansion, with ballroom, was on the market for about four to five months. The property was sold in two lots with lot two a Georgian coach house. Many would-be buyers are moving into the area because their companies have been relocated to Liverpool or Manchester, says Jackson-Stops. A swifter sale was Riley Bank Farmhouse, near Frodsham, selling close to its £375,000 asking price within 24 hours of going on the market, through Cavendish Ikin.

Outlook: Steady but good, says Strutt & Parker, which adds that people can sell their houses without worrying about not being able to afford their next. Prices will remain firm, says Jackson-Stops, but still have a way to go to return to pre-recession level.

AMANDA LOOSE

● *Next week: Oxfordshire.*



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PUTNEY Kersfield Road, 3 bedrm split level ground & 1st floor flat, recep, kit, bathroom, GCH, gge, close to BR/Tube & shops. ONO £130,000. 0956 127790

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SW15 £319,050 Hirsch contemp. hse having been the focus of very stylish and imaginative refurb. Sought after location. 4 dble beds. 3 baths. 2 rec. gdn. gge. osp. Internal inspection a must! 0181 780 5660.

SW1 Hugh Street off Belgrave Road. Luxurious new 2 bedroom apartments with concierge, private parking, 999yr lease & competitive service charges. Ideally situated for Victoria Station, the Houses of Parliament, Knightsbridge & the West End. Final 3 from £260,000. Contact Barratt on 0171 931 9787 or our agents Hamptons on 0171 834 4771.

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(Tonsleys)
Spectacular 3 dble bed flat, 2 baths (1 E/S), huge galleried reception, balcony, potential roof terrace.
£225,000.
Tel: 0181 399 9986
0956 642550
No chain. Private

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BARBICAN 4 bed flat on 13th floor of portered block. £225,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

BARBICAN Sales specialists. For full list of flats for sale call Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

BARBICAN Large type studio west facing balcony. £87,750. Daniel Watney 0171 253 4414.

BLOOMSBURY New 2 bed flat. Views Mecklenburgh Sq. Ideal for U.C.L. £195,000. Hurford Salvi Carr 0171 250 1012.

CITY EC1 One bed flat on third floor of modern block with roof terrace. £168,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000.

CITY HOMEFINDER - Can't find what you want? - Let us find it for you. For a truly personal service call 0171 638 2145

EC4 A unique opportunity to acquire a high quality 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, apartment in the heart of the city between Holborn & Fleet Street. These newly created Barratt Homes are available from £285,000 and only a limited number now remain. For full information please call 0171 583 2237. Sales office open 10am to 6pm Tuesday to Friday, weekends 11am to 4pm (Monday 2pm to 6pm).

NOTTINGHAM PLACE W1, new conversion of 2/3 Bedroom Appt. on 1st, 2nd & 3rd Flr. Long lse. From £210K. Walk-away Estates 0171 224 0959.

REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE. DEVONSHIRE St.W1 Large bright 1 bed 3rd flr apt, lift, f/f/kit, roof terr. £124,995. No agents 0171 486 5774 (H) OR 0958 320722

W2 delightful charming mews hse, 5 mins from Hyde Park, Master bed a/s bath, 2 further beds, 2 baths, lge recp, ff/kit, pvt gge, LH. £375,000 eve 0171 706 1288 day 0467 385894.

ZIGGURAT EC1 Loft living - Clerkenwell. 586 sq. ft. 3rd floor. £140,000. Hurford Salvi Carr 0171 250 1012.

DOCKLANDS

BURRELLS WHARF 1 Bedroom flat overlooking Thames, balcony, communal leisure facilities. £114,000 LH. 0171 480 6815.

TOWER HILL 1 bedroom apartment, balcony, communal garden, 24 hour porter. £107,000 Leasehold. 0171 480 6815.

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Tel:01235 851494

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HIGHBURY/ ISLINGTON

ISLINGTON, N1. Luxury three bed 2nd & 3rd floor converted maisonette with roof terrace. GCH. Nr Tube. £145,000. Tel. Stock Page Stock 0171 251 4171

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

CHELSEA SW10: Luxury 1 bdrm apt. 99 yr lse. £95,000. 0171 221 4840 Day/352 6649 Eve T

COURTFIELD GDNS SW7 Newly refurb. 1 bed £145,000 STC 0171 581 1631 T

HOLLAND PK Outstanding 1 bed gdn flat, wood floors, £200,000 Share of FH. 0171 221 9044 T

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IFIELD ROAD SW10 Charming 1 bed flat with terrace £135,000 STC 0171 581 1631 T

KENS SW7 5th flr 2 bed 2 bath 1 recep newly renovated flat. Porter and Close to park. £350,000 L/H. Anton & Lewis 0171 244 9911t 244 9838f

KENS SW5 Lower ground 2 bed 2 bath 1 reception flat with 42ft 3 level patio garden. £250,000 Leasehold. Anton & Lewis 0171 244 9911t 244 9838f

LADBROKE GROVE Exquisite 2 bed grnd floor apt priv lawned gdn Original features £175,000 Share of FH. 0171 221 9044 t

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F/H £185,000
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SOUTH KENSINGTON
Wetherby Gardens
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Open plan - 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, double recep room, family room, kitchen, laundry room, study, storage room, cellar, garden. Freehold
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or 0831 361467.

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0802 485686.

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01883 722104
or fax 01883 722068

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NO CHAIN, no agents, CASH BUYER seeks detached house, minimum four double beds, two baths, good size lounge(s), dining room & kitchen in private plot. Will consider extending basic property with potential
Call Jo
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01444 881471

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- 18 Century Water Mill
- Approx. 3/4 acre
- 5 bedrooms
- 3/4 Reception plus conservatory
- Farmhouse kitchen
- Wealth of original beams
- Trout stream
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- Fully equipped for working from home.

Offers around £250,000
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(req. proof of funding).

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3 Recep. fully fitted kitch/b'fast, 2 Bath, 2 cloak.
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FRANCE Maquaire's property-finding service is free to seekers. Freefone 0800 833009

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£550 per week.
Tel: 0171 286 1220

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£575pw fully furnished
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answer phone 2

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CENTRAL LONDON Lux 1-5 Bed flats, short/long lets fr £300pw. Exec Homes 0171 724 9919

CHELSEA Quiet 2 bed, FF, refurbished flat, close to tube, £265 pw 0171 5890027

CHELSEA SW10: Elegant Studio Apt. Ideal base. £170pw. 0171 221 4840 Day/352 6649 Eve T

CITY Lux lge 1 & 2 bd FF sec pkg port near Tube. £270-400pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

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COVENT GDN 2 min.New lux lge 2 bd 2 bth ff pkg nr Tube. £425 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

EARLS COURT/Chelsea stunning huge 1 bed apt, megaff recep, high ceilings, lux furn, gdn vws,£275pw 01403 753408

E1 Brd new lux lge 1 & 2 bd sec pkg port o/l river. £230-350pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

FULHAM lux 2 dbl bed fully furn flat, spac, bright, balc, tube 5 mins, £280pw, 0171 731 2952

HOLLAND PARK V impressive lux large 5 bd 3 bth house FF 3 rec, 2 x Garage, garden.£3,000 pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

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Exclusive Mews. 4-5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, guest cloakroom, large living room, eat-in kitchen, garage, 2 parking spaces.
£2,250 pw.
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Available immediately for long let.
Please call office hours 10-6pm
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OLD ST V. lux lge brd new 2 bd 2 bth, FF, nr Tube, fr £350pw. City Lets 0171 488 1458

PARSONS GREEN - 2 dbl bed, f/f, avail 31 Aug - 3 Nov, £275pw 0171-736 6183

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STREATHAM SW16 spacious furnished apartment in house, near buses, rail, Common. Suit quiet couple. 2 bed, 2 recep, kitchen, bathroom, WC, study. All mod cons £125 pw + bills Please Reply to Box No 6792

SW18 architects flat, 2 bed, garden, 7 mins tube, Pt/Furn, co let pref £920 pcm 0181 871 2817

TWR BGE 5 min. Brd new Lux lge 2 bed 2 bath ff pkg gym port view River & bridge. £350. City Lets 0171 488 1458

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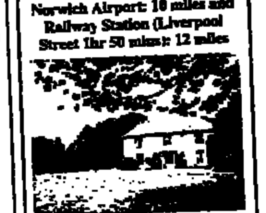

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RESORT NAME	AREA	MONTH	NO. OF WEEKS	SEASON	SLEEPS	PRICE PER WEEK £
Kilconquhar Castle	Scotland	Nov	1	Mid	6	2150
Moness Country Club	Scotland	August	1	High	4	4250
Kenmore Club	Scotland	October	1	High	6	4850
Barratt Loch Rannoch	Scotland	February	1	High	6	1795
Barratt Lochanhilly	Scotland	June	1	High	6	1995
Barratt Dalfaber	Scotland	October	1	High	6	2250
Porsonachan Club	Scotland	May	1	High	6	3250
Stakis Craigendarroch	Scotland	March	2	High	8	4450
Stakis Coylumbridge	Scotland	April	1	High	8	4250
Lakeland Village	Lake District	March	1	Mid	6	2450
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	August	2	High	6	1995
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	January	2	High	6	1495
Diamond Las Calas 2	Lanzarote	Feb/Nov	3	High	4	895
Lanzarote Beach Club	Lanzarote	Aug/Sep	2	High	6	1895
Club Flamingo Village	Tenerife	April	1	High	4	1395
Club Olympus	Tenerife	May	1	High	4	1295
Canary Islands Hol. Club	Tenerife	Feb	1	High	5	1195
Royal Sunset Beach Club	Tenerife	January	1	High	4	1795
Beverley Hills Heights	Tenerife	October	1	High	4	2250
Royal Oasis at Benal Beach	Costa Del Sol	August	2	High	4	1995
Club Riviera Caronia	Costa Del Sol	May	1	High	6	995
CPV At Lubina Sol	Costa Del Sol	Jun/Xms	3	High	4/6	995
Barratt Dona Lola	Costa Del Sol	May	1	High	4	1950
Barratt Leila Playa	Costa Del Sol	April	1	High	4	1950
Barratt Vilacana	Costa Del Sol	Apr/May	2	High	6	2595
Wimpey Bena Vista	Costa Del Sol	Nov	2	High	8	2750
Global Sahara Sunset	Costa Del Sol	Nov	2	High	6	2450
Barratt Leila Playa	Costa Del Sol	June	2	High	8	3250
Four Seasons Marbella	Costa Del Sol	Orange	2	High	8	4850
Royal Oasis La Quinta	Costa Del Sol	Float	1	High	4	1950
Miraflores Beach Club	Costa Del Sol	April	2	High	4	2250
Four Seasons Marbella	Costa Del Sol	Orange	2	High	4	2400
Club La Costa Sierra Marina	Costa Del Sol	June	1	High	6	2495

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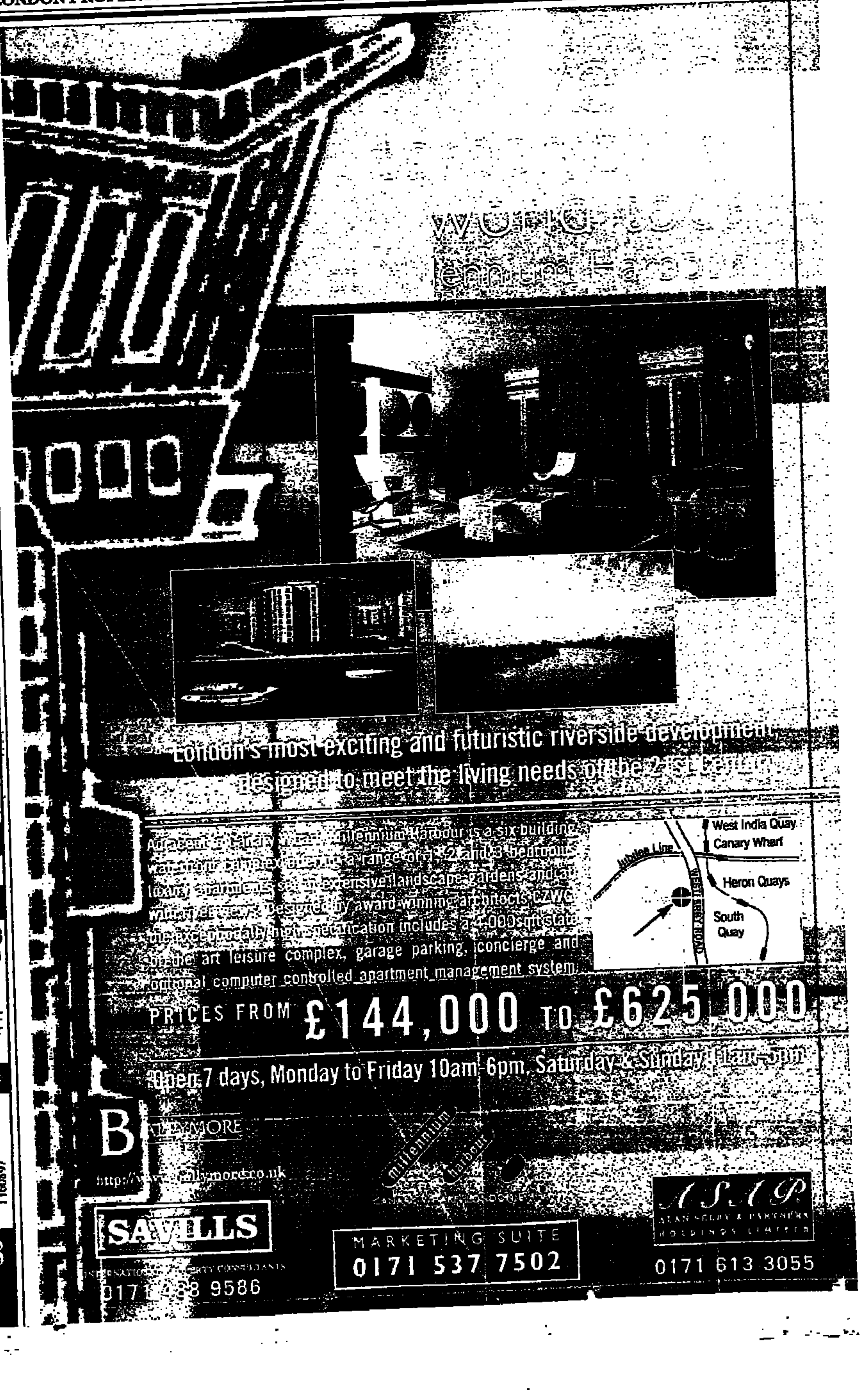

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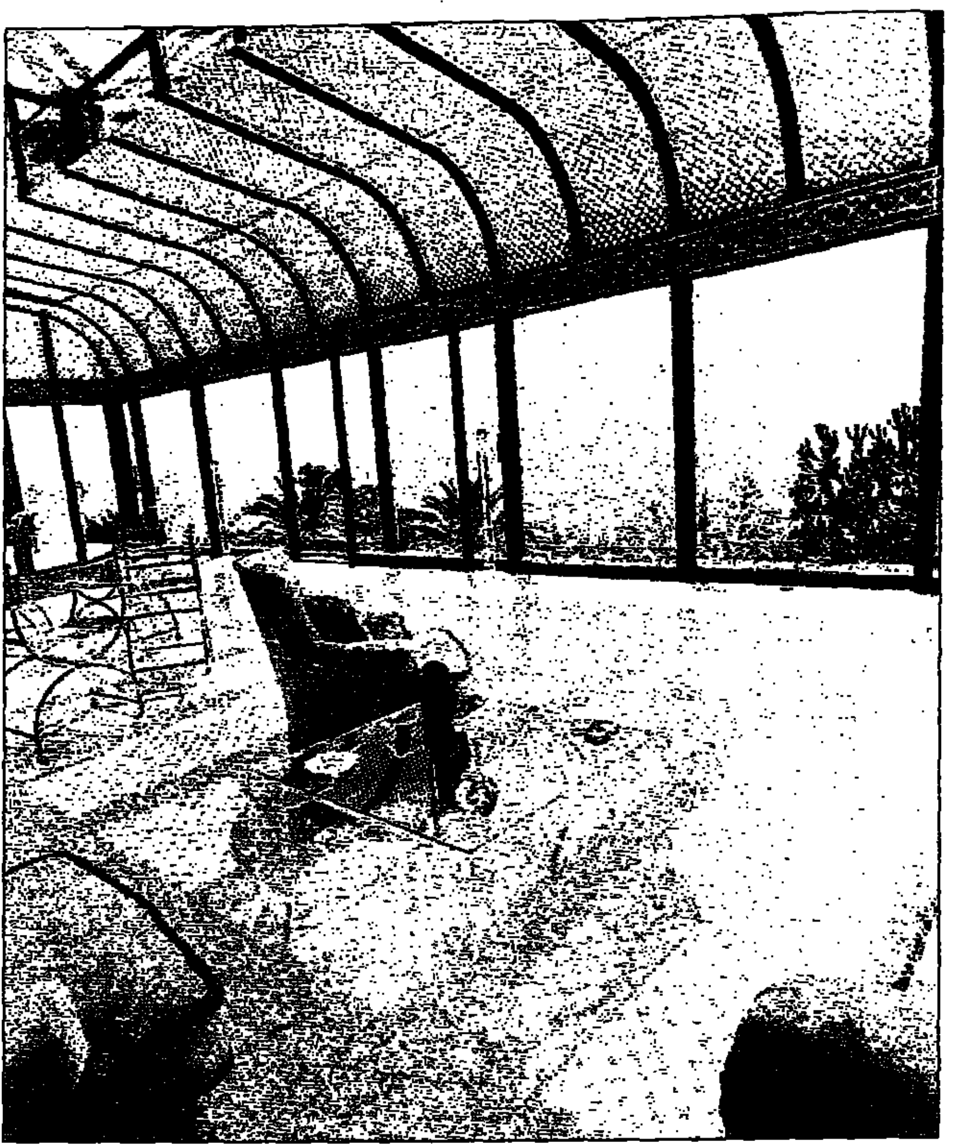
A £20 million villa on the Riviera to suit a modern-day James Bond or even a newly-wed Dodi Fayed

The south-facing pool terrace: Bagatelle, positioned on one of the most desirable sites in Super Cannes, is perfect for the big-time entertainer



Views to live and let die for: the winter dining room looks over the Bay of Cannes

High indulgence in Cannes

There are different levels of playboy status. While for some, lipstick on the collar, a red Mazda coupe and thong swimming trunks may be enough, the genuine International Playboy will need stronger credentials to earn his title.

A £20 million estate in Cannes, set in four acres with three villas and four pools, will not only increase the playboy's pulling power but also provide him with a ready-to-wear lifestyle. The higher you climb up the hill to Super Cannes the better your view (both inside and outside your exceedingly well appointed luxury villa). Famous for the film festival (two weeks every May), the *Côte d'Azur town is a magnet* for Middle-Eastern money and has a fast-expanding Russian and German expatriate community. Bagatelle, which is positioned as king of the castle on one of the most desirable sites in Super Cannes, is perfect for the voyeuristic big-time entertainer.

This is the sort of house where James Bond (a late *1970s / early 1980s* Roger Moore version, not Sean Connery) might have taken his steely-eyed Russian co-workers or ice-blonde Scandinavian for a bit of *après travail*. Built in the late 1970s under the instructions of the present owners (a Swiss company), the house has views that are usually found in the set cupboard at Pinewood Studios.

The decor is not immediately easy on the eye. The main villa is awash with marble floors, wall-high paintings of semi-naked nymphets and display cabinets packed with crystal glass. There are more reflective surfaces in each *room than in a Hall of* Mirrors. If Barbie and Ken ever needed a love nest in France, they would fix it up in the style of the bedrooms at Bagatelle. The telephone in the master bedroom is perfectly positioned for that untimely call, and the huge cushioned bed allows ample room for Bond to turn his back on his partner, roll over and discuss matters of real import.

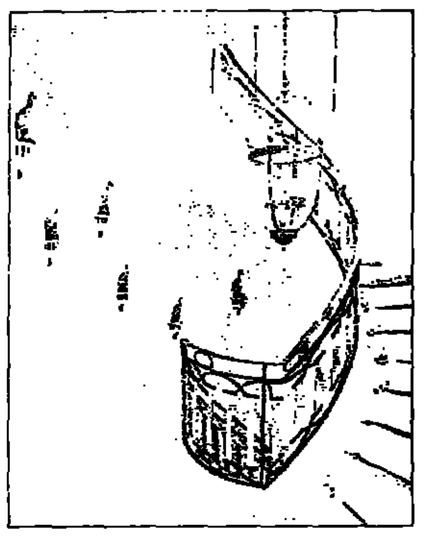
The baths in all the en suites are made to be filled with sticky, sweet bubbles, big enough to cleanse the cast and crew of a soft-porn flick in one sitting. If you do not appreciate seeing your reflection through the equivalent of a gold-plated fish-eye lens, this is not the pad for you. As well as the abundance of mirrors in the party rooms, the taps, basins and flushers in the bathroom are all *d'or faux* for that wealthy, jaundiced look.

The facilities upstairs and down could go under the title of "100 different ways to get hot fast". Playboys and girls can frolic in saunas or lounge on sunbeds on heat-trapping mosaic terraces. There is a "disco room" in the main villa with original 1970s hi-fi equipment. The coloured lights and flashing dance floor evoke memories of hot pants and latex body suits. There are Moroccan theme rooms in the main house and the two guest villas, with ethnic cushion covers and extensive tiling.

It would take a Dodi Fayed to be able to operate Bagatelle as a holiday home, although to retain her dignity Diana, Princess of Wales, woud would *have to strip the main house.*

ALEX O'CONNELL

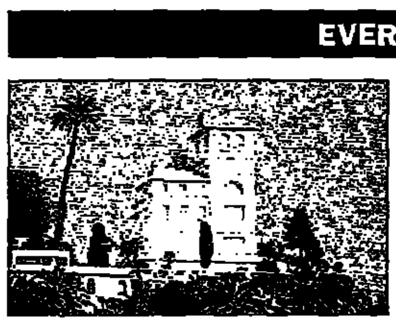
● *Agents: Knight Frank (0171-629 8171)*



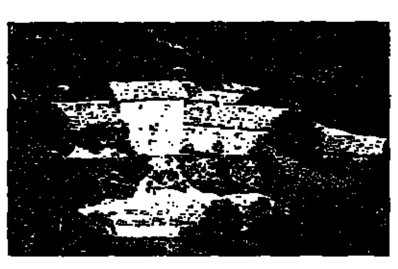
The luxurious sweep of the main marble staircase leads to Bagatelle's glittering bedrooms

Photographs by Des Jenson

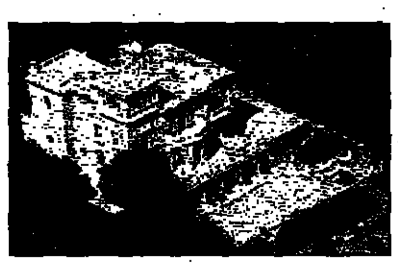
EVERYBODY NEEDS GOOD NEIGHBOURS



KARL LAGERFELD, the designer, *owns properties in France, Italy and* Germany. He has spent £5 million on his huge villa in Monaco, given to him for life by Prince Rainier.



GEORGE MICHAEL, the pop singer, *lives in a £2 million villa in the chic* Marres quarter of St Tropez. The eight-acre property has six bedrooms, a pool and a recording studio.



ELTON JOHN lives in a flamboyant, *pink three-storey retreat on a hill* overlooking Nice. Bougainvillea covers the walls of the secluded mansion, which is worth £5 million.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

- **La Bagatelle, Cannes.**
- **Price:** Freehold for sale by auction September 11 at Tribunal de Grande Instance de Grasse (Civil Court of Grasse). Auction reserve price is Fr192 million (about £20 million).
- **Travel:** La Croisette (3km), Nice International Airport (25km), helicopter from Nice airport to Monaco (five minutes).
- **Entertainment:** Blackjack, roulette and slot machines in Monaco, beach prowling on the Côte.

SURREY - Esher Price Guide: Excess £850,000
A modern & spacious house, ideal of entertaining, in an exclusive private road.
6 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 shower rooms, 3 reception rooms, gym/playroom, garage, swimming pool & garden. About 0.31 ha (0.75 acres)
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CAMPDEN HILL GARDENS, W8.

A practical modern house with a garage, off street parking & a west facing terrace.

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, dressing room, utility room & cloakroom.

Freehold

Price Guide: £495,000

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OXFORD - Boars Hill Price Guide: £365,000
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ABERDARE GARDENS, NW6. Lease to 2035 Price Guide: £249,000
A spacious flat requiring some modernisation, in a large Victorian building with a private garden. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, reception room, with open plan kitchen & cloakroom.
ST JOHN'S WOOD: 0171 722 5556

MARKHAM STREET, SW3.

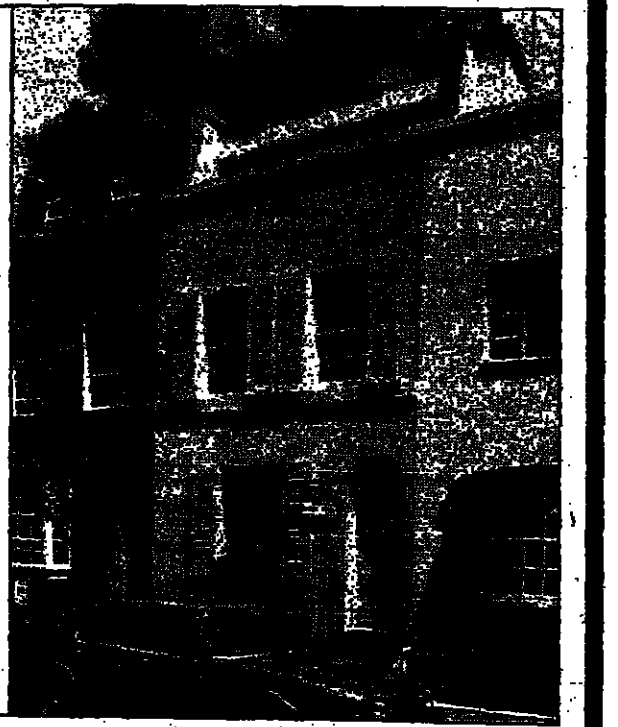
A well modernised house, close to Sloane Square & Chelsea Green, with 2 large reception rooms ideal for entertaining.

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, cloakroom, study, roof terrace & patio.

Freehold

Price Guide: £695,000

CHELSEA: 0171 352 1484



PRIMROSE MANSIONS, PRINCE OF WALES DRIVE, SW11.
Lease to 2972 Price Guide: £160,000
Delightful views over Battersea Park, a 2nd floor flat in a mansion block close to transport facilities. Bedroom, bathroom, reception room, kitchen, balcony, porter & share of freehold
BATTERSEA: 0171 228 0174

BERKSHIRE - Compton Freehold Price Guide: £118,000
A spacious and period semi-detached cottage in Compton village to the north of Newbury.
2/3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, utility/storage room & garden.
NEWBURY: 01635 523225

HAMPSHIRE - Odiham Price Guide: £345,000
A beautifully presented house in the centre of Odiham. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms (one with a conservatory), kitchen, cloakroom, garden & double garage.
FARNHAM: 01252 737115

هكذا من الأصل

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At home with the colonials

Try ants if you want a pet but not the bother, says **Jessica Gorst-Williams**

ASHLEY COOMBES

Ant colonies are becoming more popular with people who cannot devote much time to looking after pets. South American species are popular, but expensive

Forget about the kind of attention-seeking pet that bites into your time when you have none to spare: a dog that needs walking, a cat which demands fish, a bored hamster with a broken wheel. An ant, or rather a colony of ants, will live happily without you.

Sebastian Grant, 29, who has had ants ever since he can remember, says that there are a number of good reasons for keeping the creatures as pets, one of which is that they "won't feel they are prisoners, whereas a hamster or a canary might do".

Because they are easy to keep, it is unsurprising that ant colonies are becoming more popular as household pets. Andrew Stephenson, an exotic insect importer from Falkirk, Scotland, says leaf-cutting ants are the most popular "because they are about the most complex social insects in the world".

In their rainforest habitat, he explains, tropical leaf-cutting ants devastate crops, making them unpopular with local villagers. In the past, the villagers would poison entire colonies, but recently a scheme has been set up encouraging them to collect the ants, so they can be exported to Britain.

The new arrivals are expensive. "South American ants will set a buyer back about £150 just for a nest," Mr Stephenson says. "Or £300 to £700 with the equipment as well. In the wild, such a colony might grow to four million, but you would need premises as large as two tennis courts and one storey high." The colonies most households opt for will contain about 10,000 to 15,000 ants. These should cost about £150, with nest and equipment.

But buyers should be careful before buying, Mr Stephenson warns. Stories abound of shops selling bits of plastic with half a dozen ants and no queen for a tenner. "What should be included in the package is some aftercare service and advice," Mr Stephenson says. "There should be a tub of ants in some peat, including a queen. For tropical ants the aquarium should be equipped with a thermostat. This will keep the temperature at a constant 25C."

Inside will be a smaller tank — the size of an eight inch cube — with an entrance hole. This is where the ant's nest is sited. The nest will double as a garden on which the fungus crop that sustains the colony will grow. A branch will connect it to a flat glass platform at the far end of the tank — this is where the owner should place foodstuffs such as leaves, flowers and bits of ham and cereal.

At first, the ants will excavate the peat. Then they will start gathering and processing the food, which they will combine with saliva and chew into a pulp.

Droppings are added and the mulch is used as fertiliser for the fungus.

Like all pets, ants need water. "To keep the peat moist I spray a light mist of water every day or so," Mr Grant says. "As they tend to throw the debris into the water, that will need draining."

Owners worried that the creatures will escape can be put at ease by the fact that proper nests have an inch or so of water at the base, which locks them in.

As Mr Grant says: "Even if they do get out they are likely to return to their food source. This happened to my Trinidad ants. They were spotted on the wrong side of the tank but soon made their way back."

This month, Mr Stephenson is going to Gambia to find some weaver ants, which are so named because they create a nest carton by folding over leaves and stitching them together with the silk the larvae produce. A nest of 4,000 will cost about £150.

Mr Grant also has a colony of black carnivorous Portuguese wood ants, which he keeps in a tank with half an inch of water. "I found a colony living in some wood I found, so took it home and kept them. I mainly feed them on insects or dog food."

Mr Grant says there is no need to buy foreign ants: retrieving and keeping a local ant colony will cost you nothing. "You can start keeping ants in a coffee jar which you should stand in a washing-up bowl," he says.

How many other people's pets make their own food, build their own home and are quiet and cheap to keep? They might be the ideal pet.

FACT FILE

- **COLLECT a nest and put it, and some earth, into a jar with ventilation. Fill small aquarium with peat, and place in bowl with a centimetre of water. Put ants in aquarium with food and sugar water. Spray peat daily.**
- ***To buy ants:* Andrew Stephenson (01324 815369); Chiswick Pets (0181-747 0715).**

The National Trust has enraged a village with a scheme to build houses on a farm in Wales. **John Young** reports

Not on our farmland, thank you

In the fields below Parciau Farm, Clwyd, cattle graze under the trees. Beyond the village of Old Colwyn the sea glitters faintly in a heat haze. Only birdsong disturbs the silence.

Much of the beauty of the scene has, however, been ruined in recent years by the remorseless intrusion of new housing developments across the valley. Parciau Farm has become a green oasis, defying the onslaught of urbanisation and factory farming.

For local people it provides both a view and a cherished amenity. A public footpath climbs from the main road to the farmhouse, from where they can roam the fields and on clear days enjoy the views across to Snowdonia.

Until recently they were hopeful that the land would remain unspoilt because they knew it was owned by the National Trust. But a few weeks ago they were outraged to discover that the Trust had applied for planning permission for a housing development that would cover about 27 acres, or nearly half the farm.

Since then they have organised an energetic protest group and enlisted more than 1,000 signatories. For the past three weekends the Trust has found itself embarrassed by placard-waving pickets invading its properties such as Bodnant Gardens, in the Conwy Valley, the Telford Suspension Bridge and Aberconwy House in the town of Conwy, Gwynedd, which at this time of year attract thousands of visitors.

Terry James, chairman of the protest group Occupants, claims that many tourists have been appalled by the Trust's action and have now threatened to resign their membership.

"We feel betrayed," Mr James says. He cites the words of Sir Angus Stirling, former Trust chairman, in the 1995 Annual Report. Sir Angus wrote of "the Trust's social responsibility, its duty to consider the interests of its neighbours, the communities it seeks to serve and those who use the land it owns".

However, it is not so straightforward. The farm was given to the Trust in 1970 by the late Muriel Stott who, according to Mr James and his supporters, must have meant it to be left intact. For many years it was used for village fêtes and carnivals. "Otherwise why on earth would she have left it to the Trust?" he asks. "If she had wanted it to be built over, she would have sold it to a developer."

Those who remember Miss Stott personally, like Ena Wynne, a former mayor of Colwyn Bay, are adamant that she wanted the farm to remain untouched. Douglas Davies, one of her former tenants, claims he remembers her saying specifically that she never wanted to see the land developed. "That's why she left it to the Trust," he says.

As evidence of her benevolent nature, the objectors cite her gift of land for a sports ground and a new school, and of her own home, Plas Parciau, to be used as an old people's home.

The Trust's version is, however, different. Miss Stott's intention, it says, was to present it with an asset which could subsequently be sold to realise funds to support its work elsewhere. The land now occupied by the school and the sports ground was included in her gift and subsequently sold, not given away, by the Trust. Peter Broomhead, its regional director, says the Trust would never have accepted the farm as something to be preserved in perpetuity. "It was an investment for sale at a more appropriate time," he says.

In a statement explaining the Trust's position, Mr Broomhead points out that its primary purpose as a charity is to own and care for places of historic interest or natural beauty. The vast majority of properties owned are held for ever and will never be sold.

"In contrast, it also accepts as gifts a small number of properties which are not of exceptional value in their own right, but are managed on a commercial basis to provide funds to support the Trust's work."

Despite requests from objectors, Miss Stott's letter donating the farm to the Trust has not been made public. This was because, he said, it was a private letter that she would not have wanted published.

CAN YOU TRUST The NATIONAL TRUST ?

More than 1,000 people have signed a petition about Parciau Farm

The Trust's decision to apply for planning permission was prompted because the land at Parciau has been zoned for residential development in the latest local plan published by Colwyn borough council after a long public inquiry. The application, due to be submitted last Wednesday, has now been postponed until October, but Graham Wild, the planning director of the council, says that it is likely, though not certain, to be approved.

Many people will feel that the Trust, of all organisations, should be opposing the developers, not abetting them. Recently it has been criticised for selling sites in Dorset and part of the Dunham Massey estate in Cheshire.

However, Trust officials are adamant that there has been no change in policy. When Dunham Massey was given to the Trust by the Earl of Stamford in 1979, part of it was specifically designated to be sold so as to help maintain the rest of the estate. "Without that provision we would not have been able to accept the gift," a spokesman says. "To portray us as selling off properties all over the place which we should be preserving is untrue."

The Parciau objectors remain unconvinced. They accept that, given the extent of development, the farm can no longer be described as a beauty spot and realise that, unlike the Trust's much visited "honeypots", it has little to attract visitors from outside the area.

However, what has not been taken into consideration, they say, is the wildlife. Local veterinary surgeon Ann Owen, for example, has found ample evidence of a large and thriving badger sett which would be destroyed by development, and a colony of short-eared bats has also made its home in the farm buildings which the Trust has allowed to become derelict. The present state of these buildings, with doors and windows smashed and surrounded by debris, is evidence, the objectors say, that the Trust cannot wait to get rid of its property.

It is difficult to refute the Trust's case: despite revenue from investments, legacies, donations and membership fees, the cost of maintaining and restoring its growing list of properties continues to rise. But the price that must be paid is that little gems such as Parciau may be lost for ever.

A VET WRITES

Q **Three weeks ago, my daughter acquired two guinea pigs named Hattie and Henry. They arrived complete with hutch, water and feeding bowls, food and instructions. But I am sure Hattie's pregnant. What should I know?**

A The gestation period is between 64 and 70 days. The average litter is three, four or five. The youngsters are fully developed at birth: they arrive with teeth, able to run about, eyes wide open. They suckle for three to four weeks, but eat solid food from a few days old. Trust Hattie. She knows what to do and unless she is obviously unwell, or straining and producing nothing for an hour or more, don't interfere.

Conventional wisdom says Henry should move into another cage, but plenty of unexpected litters arrive with the sire present and all goes well. If Henry remains in residence, there will be some more new-arrivals in ten weeks. Castrating Henry will avoid this.

Q **We're moving house shortly — 100 miles north — and taking two cats. One is two years old, the other nearly nine. Everyone tells us something different about acclimatising them. Please help.**

A Cats travel best with empty stomachs. Which means arriving at their new home feeling hungry. Wait an hour or so. When they tell you they are starving open the back door, let them look out, then offer a bowl of their favourite food. Hunger will bring them in.

Keep up this "go out hungry, come back for food" routine for a couple of weeks, gradually increasing the interval between going out and feeding. Moving 100 miles makes things simpler. Cats moved a mile or so, within familiar territory, are more inclined to return to their old home.

Q **Our golden cocker, Susie, has caught lice. The vet prescribed a shampoo to be used four times at five-day intervals. We're worried about the children. Could they catch Susie's lice?**

A Don't worry about the children. Susie's lice are a different species from the human ones. Lice are easily killed by most insecticidal shampoos, but nits — louse eggs — are great survivors. The five-day interval is important. Shampoo number one kills the adult lice. Number two kills newly hatched lice before they can mate and lay eggs. Bath number three sweeps up late-hatching nits, and the fourth is for good luck.

JAMES ALLCOCK

Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

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Spanky, abandoned

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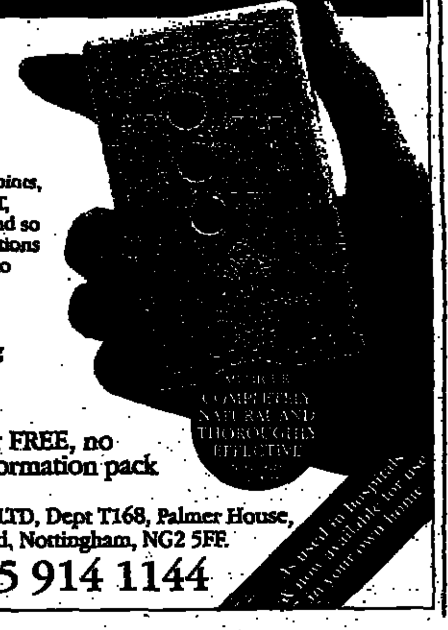
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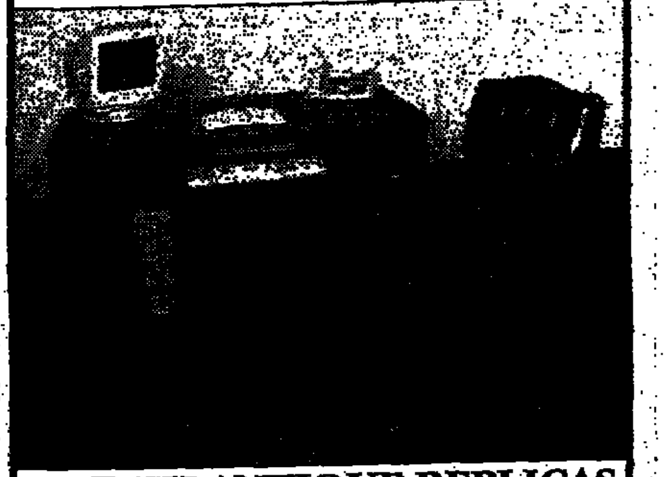

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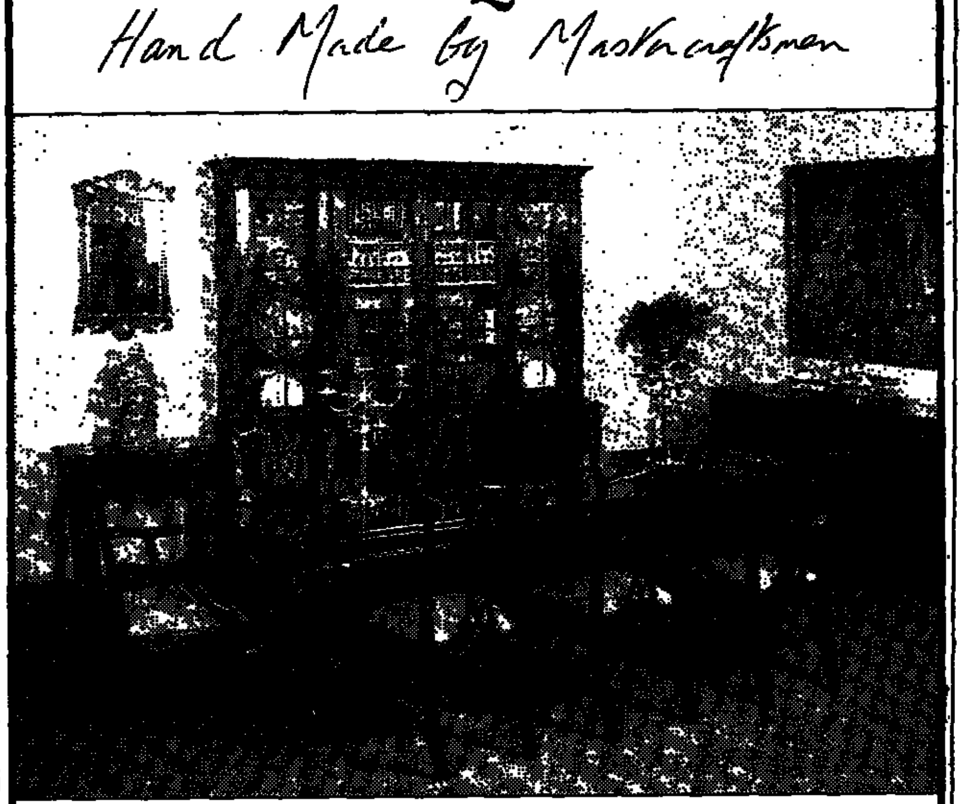

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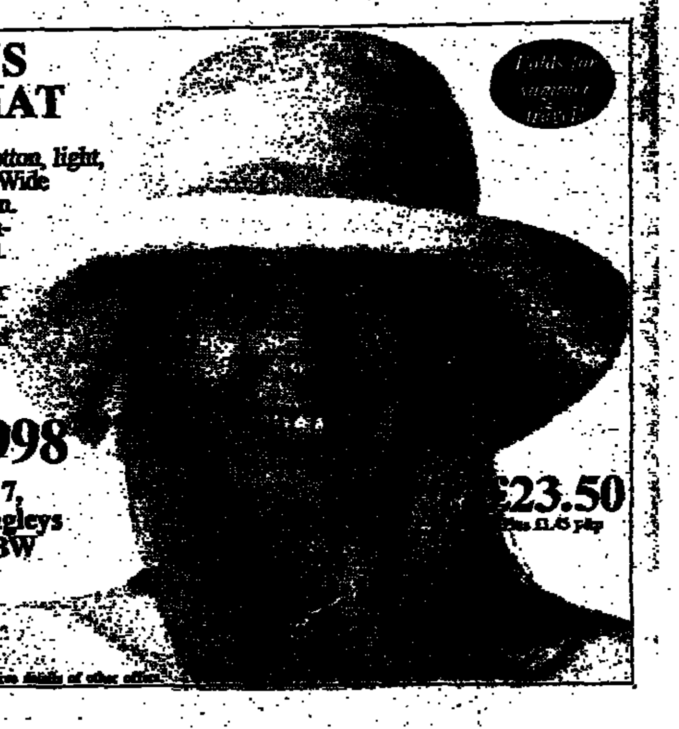

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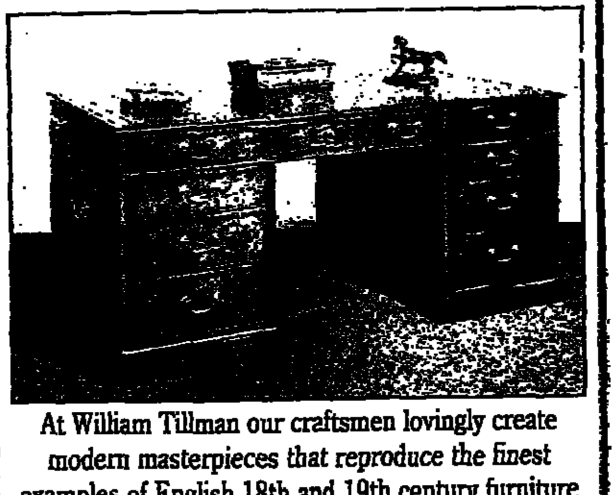

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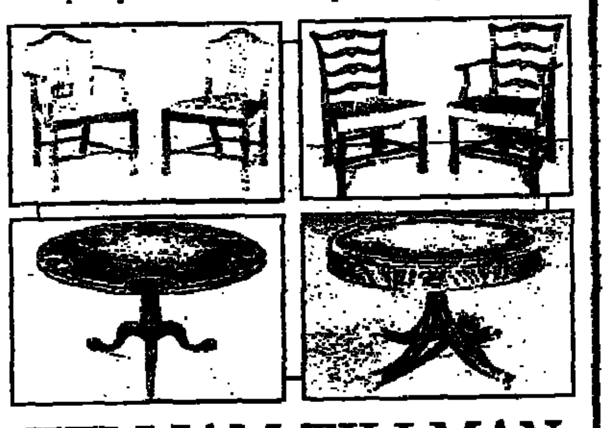

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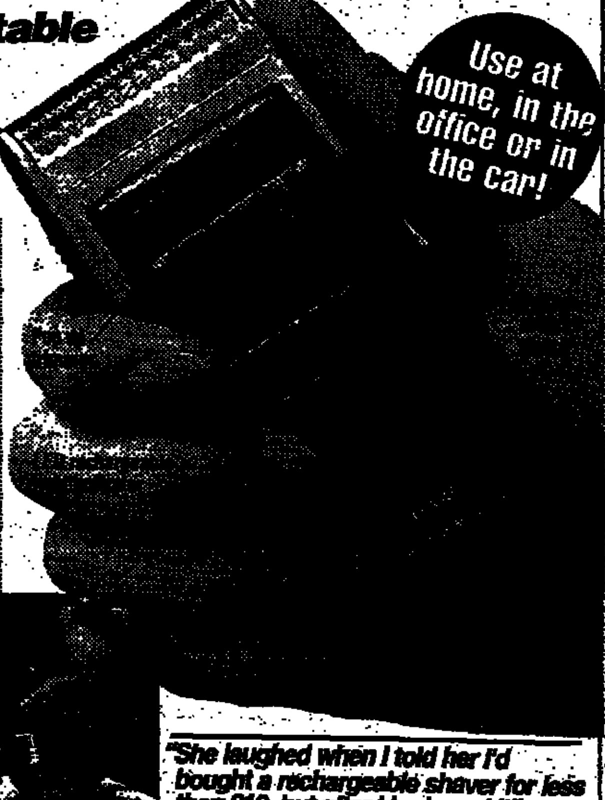

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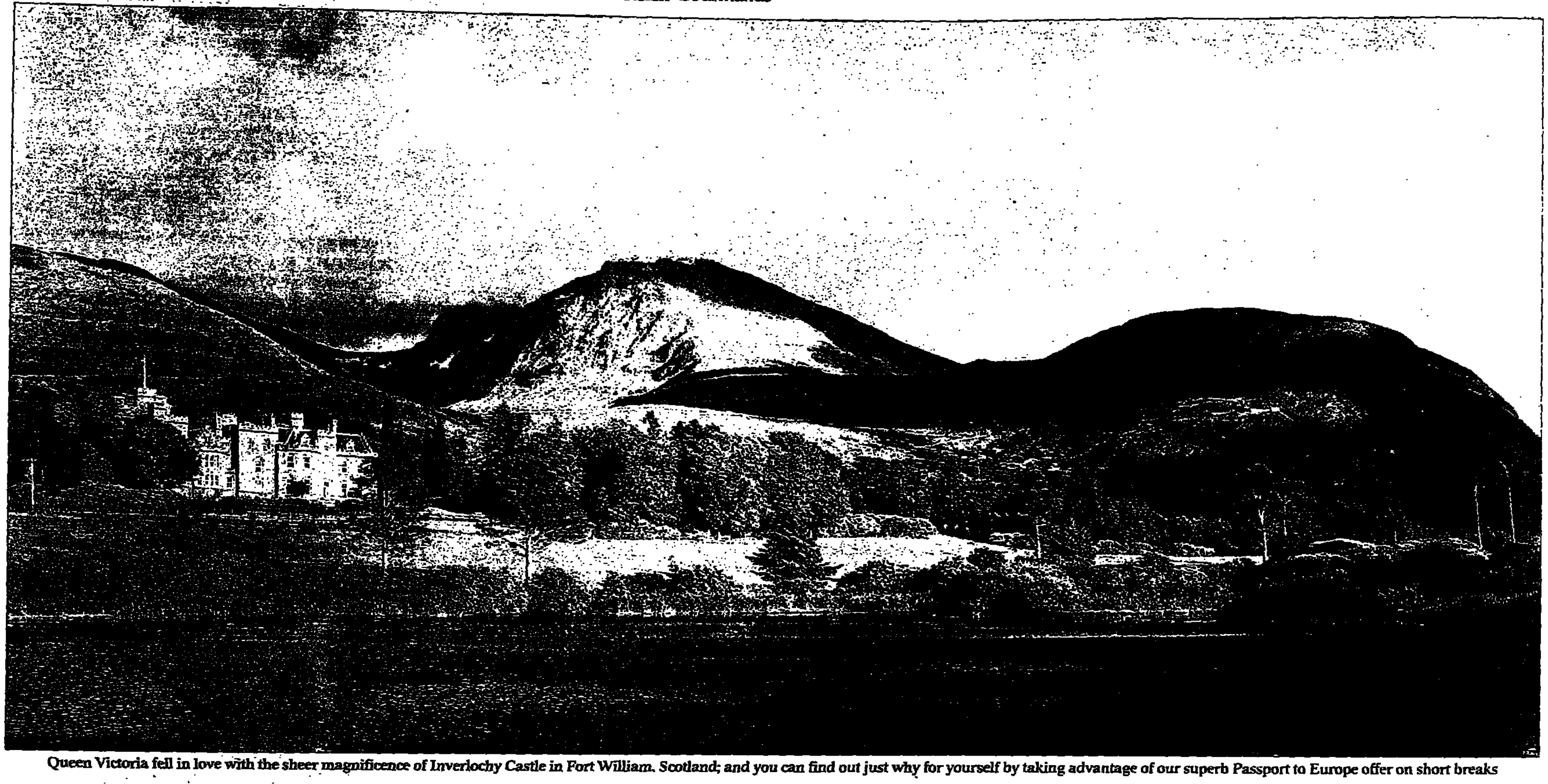


Queen Victoria fell in love with the sheer magnificence of Inverlochy Castle in Fort William. Scotland; and you can find out just why for yourself by taking advantage of our superb Passport to Europe offer on short breaks

Your dream ticket to the best of Europe

You can save 25 per cent or more on a stay at any one of 180 of the finest hotels. A strong pound means there has never been a better time to take that break, says **Heather Kirby**

Today, *The Times*, in association with Relais & Châteaux and MasterCard, brings readers a fantastic opportunity — the chance to enjoy a short break for two in many of the best hotels in Europe at greatly reduced prices.

This is the sixth year running that The Times has brought you our outstanding Passport to Europe promotion. Those thousands of readers who have already taken advantage of it know what a treat is in store. For readers new to the luxury of a Relais & Châteaux break, your stay will be an experience to remember.

The offer is valid between September 22, *1997* and April 9, 1998 *and gives you a choice of 180 hotels in 16 countries renowned for their* individuality and cuisine.

Passport to Europe offers an inclusive package for two people for one night at a price which includes your stay, dinner and breakfast, plus service charges and VAT. Prices start from £48 per person.

All you have to do is collect four out of the six tokens appearing in *The Times* today and next week and send them with the application *form, printed on page four of this* Passport to Europe insert. You will then receive a welcome pack which includes the Relais & Châteaux 1997 International Guide, details of the hotels participating in this offer, plus a list of 175 restaurants offering *Le Lunch* — an exclusive invitation to *Times* readers to enjoy a gourmet lunch at the unbeatable price of £35.

You will also receive comprehensive details about a range of discounted travel offers from Leisure Direction. Once you have received your promotion pack, you can make reservations either direct with your chosen hotel or through a central reservations free telephone number.

Relais & Châteaux is a consortium of independently owned and mostly family-run hotels whose guiding *philosophy is the five Cs:* Character, Courtesy, Calm, Charm and Cuisine. Membership is regulated by the member-hoteliers, so the reputation of all depends on the performance of each.

If it is unusual for hotels of this standard to give any discounts, it is even more unusual that they should give discounts in their restaurants, as many of these are run by celebrated chefs; all are of exceptional quality.In this country they include Raymond Blanc at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons and Michel Roux at the Waterside Inn.

The majority of hotels are set in *beautiful countryside parks or gardens. Mostly they are converted* castles, abbeys, mills, staging posts or manor houses. They offer more than just a meal and a room for the night; they provide their guests *with a concept of general wellbeing in comfortable, elegant and quiet surroundings, where excel*lent service and superb food are all part of the service.

Among the hotels there are 92 hotels in France and 16 in the UK, including Summer Lodge near Dorchester, where you can stay for just £147.50 per couple, and Hambleton Hall, a 19th-century *hunting lodge near Rutland, where you save £66.*

Participating for the first time this year is one of Relais & Châteaux's oldest members, Inverlochy Castle, Fort William. Queen *Victoria is said to have fallen in love with the place and it is easy to see why. At the foot of Ben Nevis, with* a loch and Scotch mist in the distance, Inverlochy is a dream destination for a short break.

The price for two is £315 instead of the usual £420.

Another first is the glamorous Hôtel de Crillon, Place de la Concorde, Paris. You will dine in *one of their famed restaurants and enjoy one of the most elegant views* in the world. With your Passport you will save approximately £120 per night.

Among the hotels in Ireland is Lonqueville House, Co Cork, where sheep graze in the grounds. The Blackwater River runs through the estate and the Mallow, Killarney, Cork, Tralee and Ballybunion golf courses are close by. Two can stay and dine for only £153.

There are many magnificent *bargains on offer, including five hotels in the Paris area for less than* £150 per night per couple. They include Le Manoir, an old hunting lodge, Hostellerie Le Clos, a Norman manor, and the Château de Courcelles, surrounded by champagne vineyards.

Pierre and Jany Gleize's, establishment La Bonne Etape in the Alpe-de-Haute-Provence, will wel*come you for £100 for two. You will sleep with the scent of lavender* from the surrounding fields wafting through the windows.

With the exchange rate favouring *the pound, there has never been a better opportunity to take advan*tage of our Passport to Europe.

Having a MasterCard (there are more than 300 million in circulation, almost 12 million in the UK) will assist you with the other fantastic part of this year's promotion. This is *Le Lunch*, an entirely new concept in eating out (see below). When you receive your *promotion pack you will find a tear-off order form which is part of the cover of your* Relais & Châteaux 1997 guide. You will receive a prepaid voucher with which to pay for your meal. And there are some sensational restaurants where you can treat yourself and a friend to a gourmet meal for a fraction of the usual price.

Among them is Girasol, near Alicante, Spain where, *for owner* Joachim Koerper, *cooking is a performance* art. With classical music playing in the background and high chairs giving it the feel of a banquet, his restaurant will give you hours of pleasure as you savour one subtle flavour after another, to the accompaniment of fine wines.

There are many more equally *wonderful places to dine awaiting you. So start collecting the tokens then send away for the guide* — and *prepare to experience them* for yourself.

Spoilt for choice with an international line-up

In a *Times* special offer just £35 buys your passport to many of the finest restaurants in Europe.

Robin Young guides the gourmet

*Excellence should never be confused with ex*clusivity. Hotels and restaurants do not earn a good reputation by catering to only the seriously wealthy. That is more likely to mean they are simply pretentious and overpriced.

Places of genuine quality stand out through their ability to provide special treats for people from all walks of life, and make them feel welcome, comfortable and contented — whatever their financial background.

One aspect of this year's special offer presented by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* in conjunction with Relais & Châteaux Hotels *is* dedicated to this very notion.

The offer, providing an unprecedented opportunity to enjoy the finest international cooking in the most delightful and agreeable surroundings, is called *Le Lunch*. It is, in effect, a designer luncheon voucher for gourmets, *valid in* 175 Relais & Châteaux *hotels* in 13 European *countries*. It is a *one-price ticket to the gastronomic delights* that have *made* Relais & Châteaux hotels renowned for their culinary excellence.

Le Lunch vouchers, priced at £35 each, make even some of the smartest and most luxuriously appointed Relais & Châteaux hotels and restaurants (the Relais Gourmands) affordably accessible to all readers of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

Standards of cooking have always been of *paramount importance to the Relais & Châteaux consortium. No establishment is admitted to membership unless its standards of cuisine* are judged *high enough*. The judges are *existing members*, many of *whose* restaurants are *already acclaimed* in guidebooks *and* showered with stars, *rosettes* and other awards. Such restaurateurs *and chef*-proprietors make *the most knowledgeable*, and *toughest*, restaurant critics.

Relais & Châteaux members are also, by definition, *independent* and privately *owned* hotels, each with its *own* individual style and character.

But the one thing that all the offers have in common is the price — just £35. That sum buys a voucher exchangeable at lunchtime at any of the 175 participating hotels or restaurants. In some it will cover a four-course meal with wine, water and coffee. In many, the management will provide a special fixed menu, while others will encourage customers to take their choice *à la carte*.

While most of the hotels and restaurants joining the scheme are in France, where 102 leading establishments will be offering *Le Lunch*, eight participating establishments are in the *United* Kingdom, and two in Ireland. And there are opportunities to indulge in the pleasures of *Le Lunch* in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Sweden, Italy and Spain.

The majority of the 175 participating restaurants have Michelin stars. And four have the three-star *awards which denote that* Michelin rate the food so *highly it is worth undertaking a whole journey just for the sake of the eating experience.*

Such three-star destination dining rooms include: the Côte Saint-Jacques at Joigny on the banks of the Yonne, where Jean-Michel Lorain will present a four-course fixed menu with wine and coffee included — all this in exchange for the *Le Lunch* voucher.

His not-so-distant Burgundian neighbour, Marc Meneau at L'Esperance at Vezélay, *charges extra* for wine and coffee but the four-course fixed menu may, as a consequence, be particularly lavish.

Another three-star experience awaits at the Restaurant Schwarzwalderstube within the Hotel *Traube* Tonbach in Germany's Black Forest, where the *chef de cuisine* is Harald Wohlfahrt, a *master of classic French* cuisine.

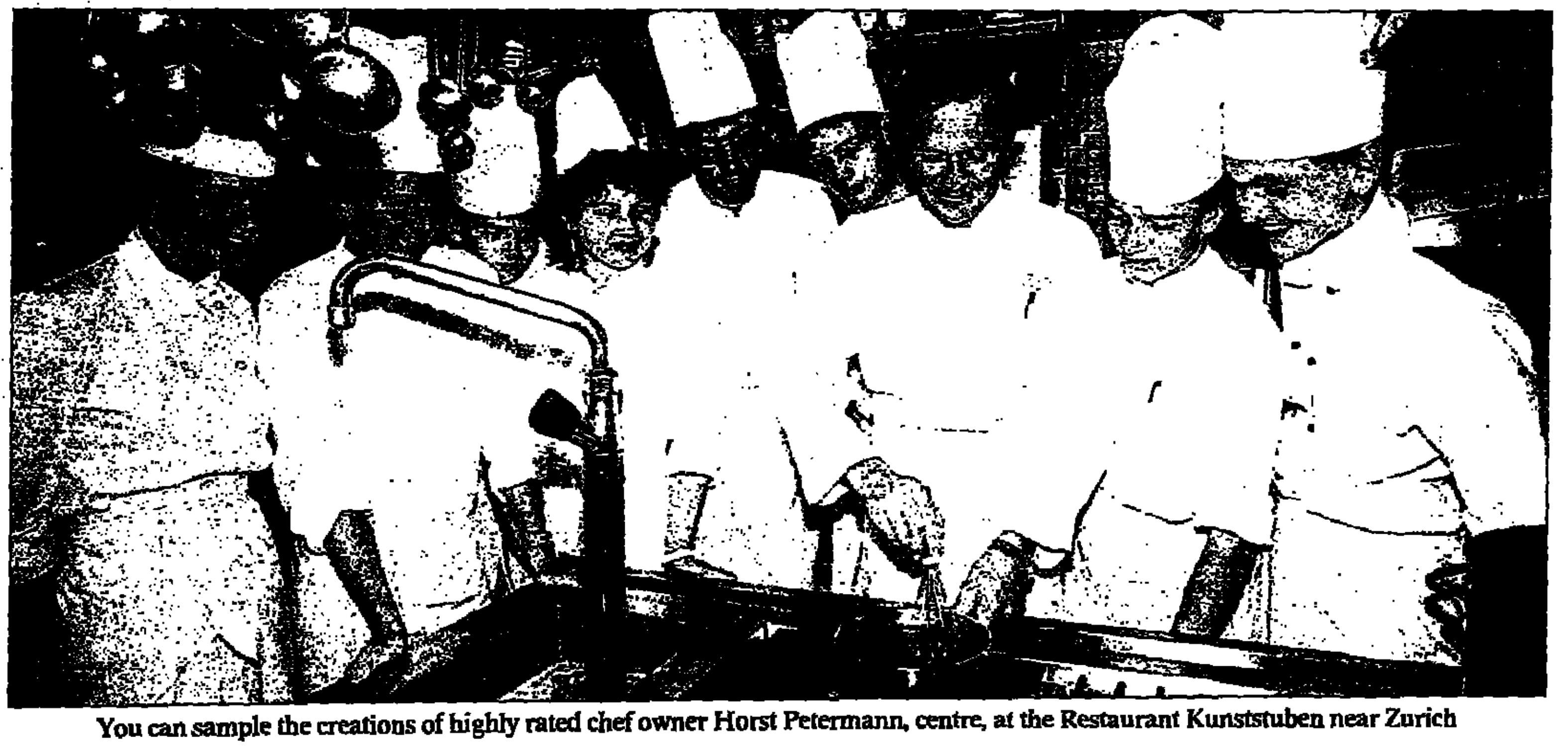
Finally there is Don Alfonso 1890, an Italian Relais Gourmand at Santa Agata sue Due Golfi, overlooking the Gulfs of both Naples and Salerno, producing its own poultry, vegetables and oils and specialising in cooking infused with Mediterranean herbs and spices.

The two-stars enthusiastically promoting *Le Lunch* include famous names like *Alain Chapel at Mionnay near Lyon; Jean Bardet in Tours on the Loire; Firmin Arrambide's Les Pyrénées at St Jean-Pied-de-Port* in the Pays Basque; the restaurants of Michel Rostang and Guy Savoy, *Alain* Dutourneur's Carré des Feuillants and the historic Grand Vefour in Paris; Pic in Valence; and the Auberge des Templiers at Les Bezards, Boismorand near Montargis, one of the founder members of *Relais & Châteaux 50 years ago.*

In the United Kingdom the two-star participants include both Michel Roux *fils* at Le Gavroche in Mayfair, the establishment which can claim to have laid the foundations of modern British cookery *under the direction of his father, Albert; and the inexhaustibly energetic* Raymond Blanc at Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, in Great Milton, Oxfordshire, now firmly established as this country's highest rated country house hotel.

Among the other hotels and restaurants participating are many rising stars, including establishments whose chefs are graduates of famous Relais & Châteaux kitchens elsewhere. One tipped to watch is Horst Petermann, the German-born owner chef at the Restaurant Kunststuben at Küsnacht, a few minutes from Zurich.

There is no reason to *limit* the number of establishments *visited using Le Lunch* vouchers. *They also make excellent gifts for friends. But whichever* Relais and Châteaux establishment you choose, after 40 years experience as a customer I can honestly say I would be astonished if you were disappointed.



You can sample the creations of highly rated chef owner Horst Petermann, centre, at the Restaurant Kunststuben near Zurich

YOUR FOUR-PAGE GUIDE TO THE BEST HOTELS AND SPECIAL OFFERS FOR TIMES READERS

RELAIS & CHATEAUX

RELAIS & CHATEAUX
Relais Gourmands

Surrounded by beauty and medieval magic

DORDOGNE

Brian MacArthur
takes the scenic route to a castle

On almost any journey through France there are sights that are so spectacular you are forced to stop and savour them. There were several such moments on a holiday last week — the first sight of Carcassonne, the cathedral at Albi, the valley of the Lot, the rural beauty of the Tarn.

Another, as we drove from Larroque in the Tarn via Rocamadour to Lacave, where our journey was to end, was the first sight of the Château de la Treyne, perched over the River Dordogne in the Lot. We gazed in awe at this beautiful medieval castle, standing sheer over the river and seeming as if it had been created by the 20th century wizards of Disney instead of the French between the 14th and 17th centuries.

Château de la Treyne: set in 300 acres of parkland

At the end of a day's driving along the minor roads of France in the midsummer heat, the prospect that cheers is a swim, a bath or shower, an hour of reading and a decent dinner. The Château de la Treyne, owned by Michele Gombert-Devals, set in 300 acres of parkland with 12 rooms and two apartments in all shapes and sizes, each elegantly decorated and with jumbo beds, met every expectation.

We sat in the garden under a Cedar of Lebanon and read our books. We swam under trees in a pool surrounded by sloping lawns. Back in our room at the top of the castle we decided against the whirlpool bath and opted instead for a shower which had jets from the side walls as well as overhead.

And then as the sun set over the river and the wooded hills beyond, we had a long and lingering dinner on the floodlit terrace overlooking the river far below. Our small cup of melon soup was followed by lobster, John Dory fillets with aubergines, lamb stuffed with vegetables in an olive sauce, a plate of Roquefort served with a glass of Monbazillac, and a poached white peach served with a granita of prune brandy and petit fours, and coffee with a glass of vieux prune — all served on Limoges china, costing a lot less than a similar dinner in London and sending us to bed very content indeed.

Our day at the Château de la Treyne — we stayed on for breakfast and lunch (baby rabbit, roast salmon) next day and read in the garden — was a perfect end to a French holiday (just as it would be a perfect beginning). Lacave is 25 miles from Brive, where we caught the motor rail back to Calais.

My other Relais & Châteaux discovery last year was Les Logis de l'Aubergade, a 13th-century house in the small hilltop village of Puymirol near Agen in the Lot et Garonne. Puymirol is one of those attractive French villages which seems almost deserted. Yet it boasts the outstanding restaurant of the area, attracting gourmets from as far away as Toulouse, 90 kilometres along the motorway, where owner-chef Michel Trama has won two Michelin stars and four Gault Millau toques and has the Gallic wit to serve a "hamburger" of foie gras.

Over the past few years, his wife Maryse has developed the hotel arm of the restaurant with a walled garden and small swimming pool. There are now ten rooms, each boldly designed with a superb mixture of ancient and modern furniture.

The restaurant at the Crillon: The service is so impeccable that you could probably order in any tongue you liked

I've dined and gone to heaven

PARIS

I have often wondered how the other half lives. Now I know. They go to Paris and they check in at the Hotel de Crillon. Let us be clear. I am not a stranger to luxury overnights. I have stayed in hotels classed among the best in the world. But none has the sheer style, *la grande pompe*, of the Crillon.

Built in the mid-18th century, when every public building was a symbol of French pride, the long, colonnaded façade, with its balconies and tall windows, is as equally suited to a palace as to a hotel. Location adds to the sense of majesty.

The Crillon looks out over Place de la Concorde, with its Egyptian obelisk at the centre and the National Assembly beyond. To the left is the Panthéon, Notre Dame and the Louvre. To the right, the gold dome of Les Invalides. It is but a short walk to the Champs Elysées, and one of the charms of staying at the Crillon is to be able to stroll for an evening drink in what is still a most romantic setting. Just try to ignore the less agreeable sights, such as the sharp-suited bouncers outside the fashionable nightspots. The bar at the Crillon was famous in the prewar days as the haunt of foreign correspondents. With the American Embassy next door, it is still a popular meeting place for the international set, but now the business people get the best tables. It is the same in the Ambassadeurs, the grandest of the Crillon's two restaurants. The service is impeccable; efficient but never overbearing, and conducted, it seems, in whatever language the client chooses. If your palate tends towards the rich, the foie gras will prove irresistible, but my own culinary trip to heaven was via the lobster salad, followed by rabbit in mustard sauce. The wines are expensive but quality and price are well matched and, what the hell, this is a special occasion.

And so to bed. There are suites big enough to accommodate a small army. These are at the front of the building, where grandees of suitable stature might feel the need to address the crowds from one of the balconies. I was blissfully happy with an arrangement that took in a drawing room furnished in imperial style.

There was a bodyguard outside my door. Not for me, I hasten to add. He was there to protect the Sheikh of Araby, who had booked the rest of the corridor for himself and six wives. Bidding him (the bodyguard, *not* the sheikh) goodnight, I asked, as jocularly as possible, what I was to do if there was trouble. He patted the bulge in his jacket. "Let me look after it."

Such is the womb-like comfort and security engendered by the Hotel de Crillon, I did not doubt him for a moment.

BARRY TURNER

Take a luxury break: special offers for readers of *The Times*

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Hôtel de la Plage	FFR 1440	FFR 1080
Le Goyen	FFR 1700	FFR 1275
Château de Locguénolé - RG	FFR 1496	FFR 1122
Castel Clara	FFR 1970	FFR 1475
Le Bretagne et sa Résidence - RG	FFR 1800	FFR 1350
L'Auberge Bretonne - RG	FFR 2500	FFR 1875
Castel Marie-Louise	FFR 1580	FFR 1185
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Pflaums Posthotel Pegnitz	DM 775.00	DM 550.00
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Hotel Grüner Baum	ÖS 3,050	ÖS 2,300
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Hotel Vila Bled	£135.00	£102.00
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Falsled Kro - RG	DKR 3,220	DKR 2,415
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Sheen Falls Lodge	IR £ 311.00	IR £ 230.00
Longueville House	IR £ 204.00	IR £ 153.00
Dromoland Castle	IR £ 256.00	IR £ 192.00
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RG : Relais Gourmands

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Details of closure dates and exception periods are included with your free guide

هكذا من الأصل

هدية من الاهل

Tribute to a car that put the family on wheels

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THE TIMES

CAR 97

Crunch time for Thrust record breakers

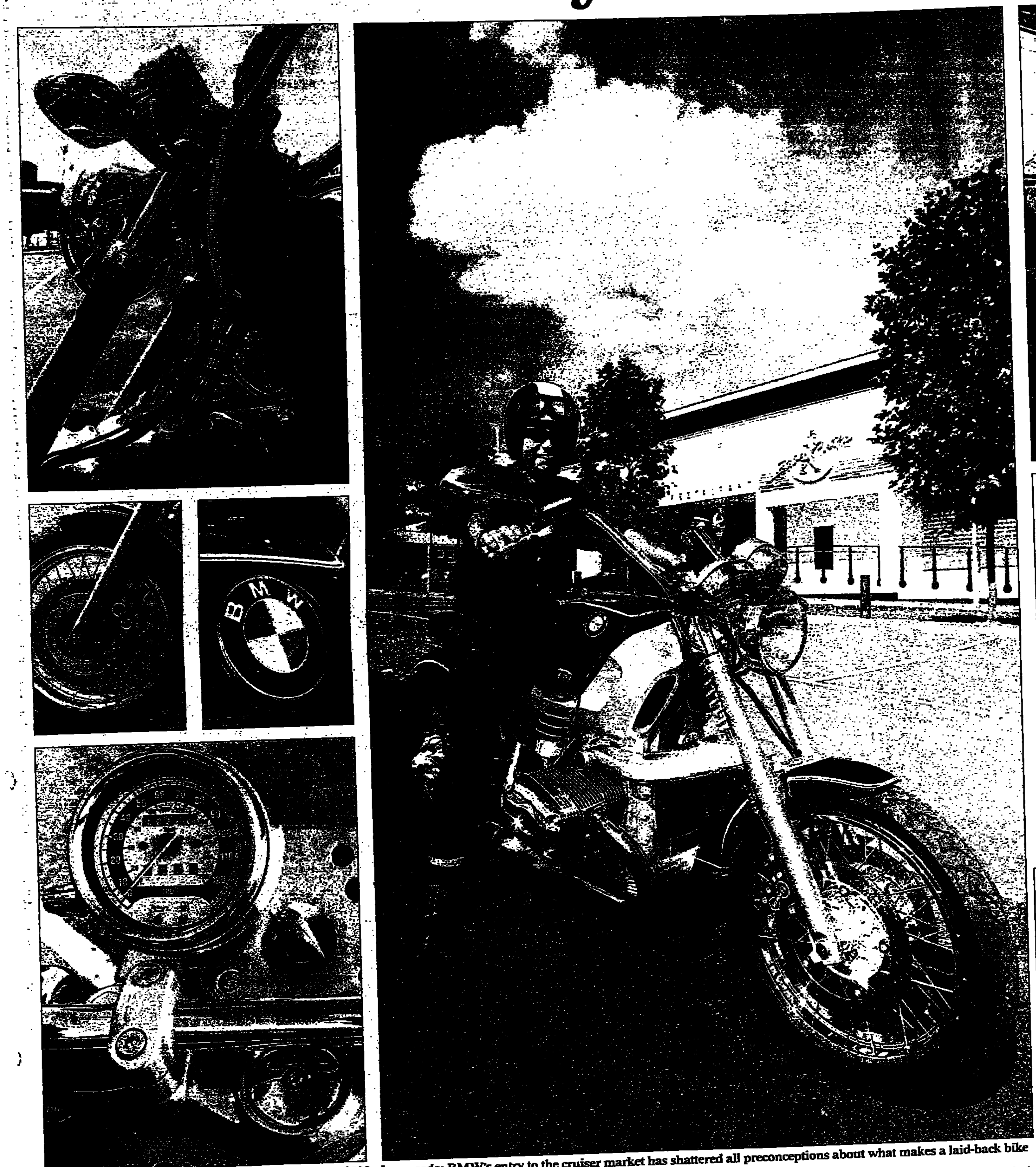
Page 12

SATURDAY AUGUST 16 1997

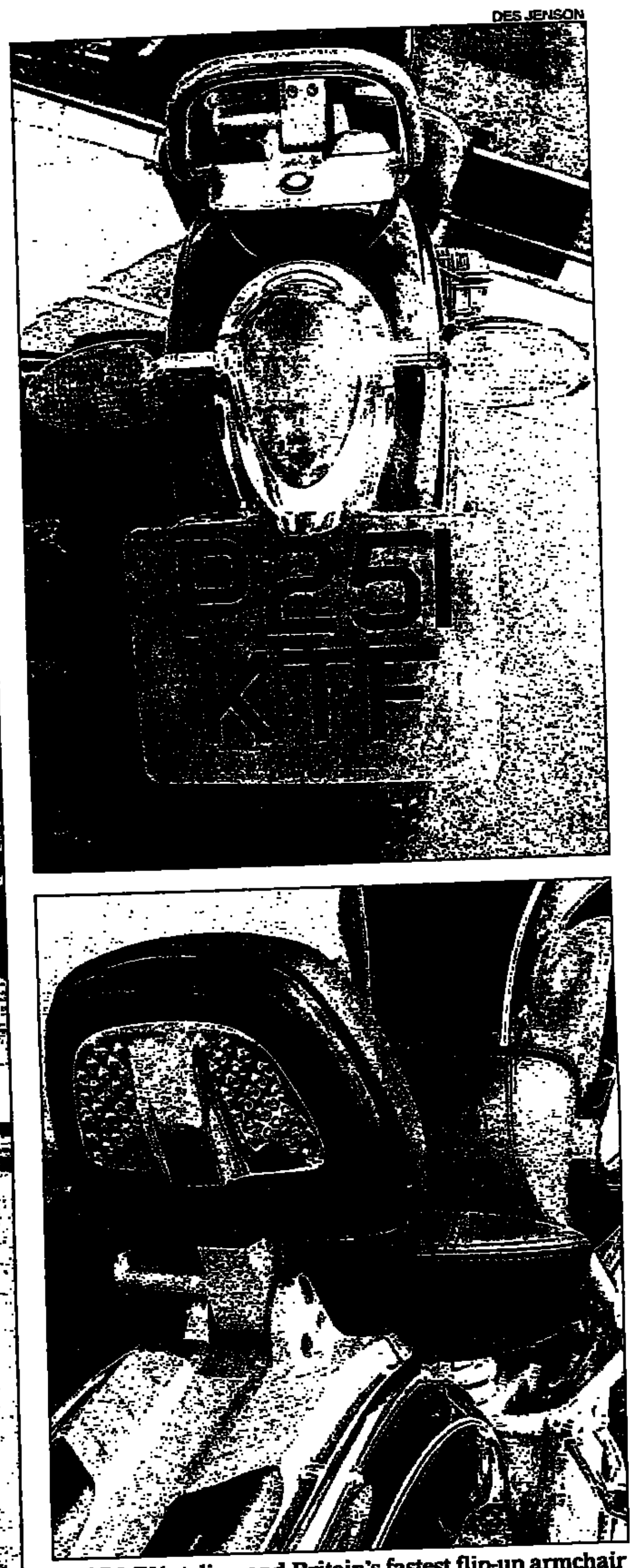
John Naish rides the BMW R1200 C, a stunning combination of Bavarian tradition and state-of-the-art biking

On Germany's cruiser missile

DES JENSON



Telelever front suspension, top, anti-lock brakes and 100-plus speedo: BMW's entry to the cruiser market has shattered all preconceptions about what makes a laid-back bike



Old BMW styling and Britain's fastest flip-up armchair

What had I done? The police car that had been shadowing me for the past couple of miles pulled alongside, steadily matching my pace. As the officer rolled his window down, I stopped feigning indifference and glanced over. "Now *that's* what I call a motorbike," he shouted. I smiled back — not a proud owner, just a relieved rider.

After just two days riding BMW's new R1200 C cruiser, I should have been accustomed to that level of attention, nay adulation. Nothing on the road — let alone on two wheels — has styling to match. Grown men would step over a prostrate Spice Girl to get a better look. Teenagers shout and point. Couples in sports cars stop to ask about it. Drivers of executive cars mentally buy the bike from under you.

And everyone has an opinion. Motorcyclists tend to be a conservative bunch, but almost all applauded its avant garde design. Even boy racers on Ducatis loved it. About the worst I heard was "Er, well. It's *different*," from a bemused Harley-Davidson rider.

And different it surely is. BMW's entry to the fast-growing cruiser market has shattered all preconceptions about what makes a laid-back bike. Harley, of course, made the archetypal cruiser — and Japanese manufacturers have slavishly copied the formula of V-twin engines, peanut fuel tanks, fat tyres; everything. Even Triumph's Adventurer, with its Harleyesque tailpiece, dabbles in the same arena.

But instead of raiding Harley's tradition, the Bavarian company delved into its own — right back to the first boxer-engined twin it built in 1923. It mixed in the vital ingredients of the chopper cult that originally sired cruisers — high handlebars, low seat, forward-mounted footpegs and a big twin engine. Then BMW modernised it all with state-of-the-art looks and equipment: Telelever front suspension, Motronic electronic ignition, anti-lock brakes and a catalyic converter.

The final blend creates a compelling Flash Gordon mix of past and future. Breaking from the Leader of the Pack design mould was brave; it could have been a grave error, but it works. It's a true individual in a world where individuality is being cloned.

BMW's modernisation has mercifully laid waste another preconception surrounding cruisers — that they are all show and no go. This one does both.

The 1,170cc motor is the biggest BMW has ever built: two huge pistons slug away beneath the expanse of fuel tank, but once on the move you might never know it. The horizontally opposed twin quickly smoothes down to a magic-carpet beat, silenced down to a gruff thrum by the super-effective stubby silencers. Only when you open it up in high gear from low revs does it shake the bike powerfully by its lapels — worth doing for the sheer hell of it.

The power is all low down, with the motor tuned to produce only 61bhp, but it also stomps out a massive 72lb/ft of torque at 3,000rpm. The spread of power suits the lazy cruising style. From 35mph to way over maximum British speed limits, you can leave it in top gear and wind it on.

Then there's that long, raked out chassis — basically two sub-chassis, one at each end of the motor. The back end is so long it effectively neutralises the usual shaft-drive bugbear of torque-reaction, where the tail end lifts on accelleration and messes up your balance. Conventional bikes in the BMW range have a Paralever system to stop this. The R1200 C doesn't need one.

Up front, the wishbone "Telelever" system separates the suspension from the braking — ergo, no fork dive when you hit the front anchor, leaving you to squeeze the powerful anti-lock brakes with near impunity.

Engine and chassis combine to make it one of the quickest bikes off the line I've ridden. The length keeps the front wheel down, the torque makes it nigh impossible to bog the engine. It's almost alarming how swiftly and easily the bike hits 30mph. Indeed, you have to watch it in town.

Power delivery is less spectacular further up the rev range — but it's just always strong, always there: you get a bit blasé, a bit laid back about it. Guess that's cruising.

It feels unburstable at fast motorway speeds, but after 50 miles my arms and neck started to feel the strain. So I tried the backrest — deployed by flipping up the rear seat. It first struck me as an awful gimmick. But it works — suddenly you're enjoying Britain's fastest armchair.

A-roads, however, are where the R1200 C is at its best. Fun is a horribly prostituted word nowadays — appended to everything from breakfast cereals to casual footwear — but it's the right word for the cruiser. Paradoxically, those serious technical types at BMW wouldn't let a machine off the production line unless it handled, and while the low-slung footpegs and snug real-leather seat obviate any road-racing delinquency, it's hard to push the bike out of shape, despite its comfy-soft suspension.

Instead, it sweeps round bends surely on its Bridgestone tyres, footpegs lightly scraping on the Tarmac; it whooshes you down the straights, and the torque swoops you up the hillsides. It feels good, does you good, and lord, you know you look good. And all the while, somewhere in the back of your head, it all seems improbable.

Because in a sensible world, this bike would have stalled at the concept stage — built as a one-off to wow people at the motor shows. But it escaped on to the street as a practical proposition: one that comes with optional panniers for long-distance cruiser touring.

The fantasy-come-true element is key to this style of biking, and BMW has got it right ... and we're offering one of these soulful machines as a *CAR 97* competition prize: sadly, I'm not allowed to enter.

BMW R1200 C

Engine: 1,170cc 61bhp electronically injected four-valve boxer twin, shaft-drive through five-speed gearbox.

Performance: 0-62mph, 5.8 seconds; top speed, 105mph.

Price: £9,750, plus approx £450 on-the-road charges.

CONTEST: PAGE 5 / GRAND PRIX: PAGE 3

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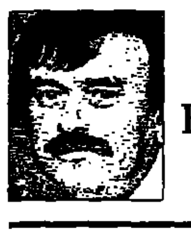
Motor caravan, Mini, motorbike, his and hers bicycles . . . these American tourists had their own, home-made integrated transport policy

But where were the rollerskates?

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

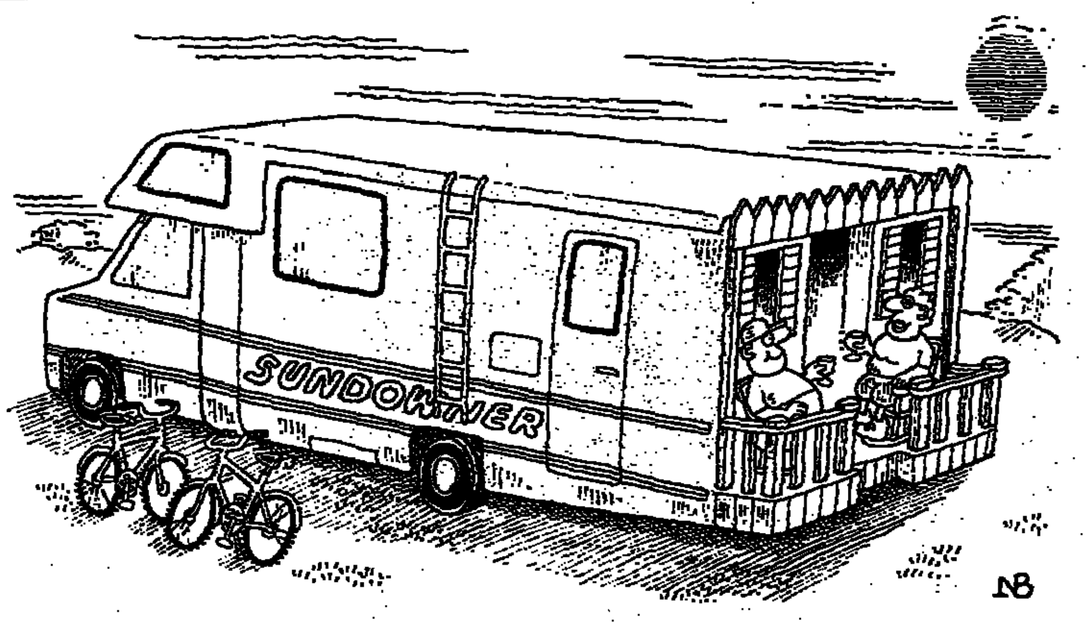
I had been fishing for a few hours off the beach at Slapton on the south Devon coast and was looking forward to a fish supper (always *assuming* I could find a fishmonger who was still open at that time *of night*). *Slapton is* a long beach with strong historical associations. *for it was here that American lives* were lost during rehearsals for the D-Day landings.

There is a memorial to the men who died behind the beach, where there is also a large car park. I was lugging my fishing gear over the boulders at the back of the beach, heading back to the car, when the deep *note* of a very serious engine made me lift my head. An RV was *pulling into the car park.*

RV stands for recreational vehi*cle and is an American term which* is fast spreading to this country, though we still tend to call these vehicles motor caravans. I am, as you know, not enamoured of the sort of caravans people tow behind cars, *but motor caravans and RVs* are another matter: these are *proper* vehicles, *ones* with self-sufficiency.

The point about the one that pulled into Slapton car park, as I discovered during a conversation with the owners, was that this vehicle incorporated nearly every form of transport one could ever need. The owners were an American *couple and* had come to Slapton because the father of one *of them had been killed in the* D-Day rehearsals.

I showed them the *memorial* and they showed me over the RV, which they called Bertha. It was not that large. I think about 20ft, but *it* was beautifully equipped. And Bertha had her own family. First there was an Austin Mini, which was towed behind. This gave the couple, who were retired *and had been touring* Europe for a couple of years, more flexibility for *exploring* the lanes *of* places like Devon.



On Bertha's roof rested two bicycles, his and hers. Neither the man nor the woman liked cycling, but they used the bicycles at least twice a week for exercise. I thought this was very American. Who could imagine a British family lumping bicycles around a whole *continent just* to *ensure* they got some exercise?

Not that the couple were averse to fun on two wheels. Large brackets, on which rested a motorcycle, had been bolted just below the RV's rear window. I forget the details, but I doubt that it was in the class of the BMW Cruiser *CAR 97* is giving away this week, but it *was* certainly a bike to get you from A to B in a hurry.

So when you added it all up, the couple had a travelling home, attached to a small saloon car, attached to two bicycles for exercise purposes, attached to a hefty motorcycle. And in case they became bored with land transport, they had a canoe strapped to the roof alongside the bicyles. Their only concern when I met them was whether they should *sell the Mini*, as this made the unit 10ft longer and in some ways doubled up with the *motorcycle*.

I told them to hang on to the Mini *while* they *were in* Britain and the talk as we parted was of selling the Mini when they moved on to southern Europe, where rain would be less of a problem. Aside from that little dilemma, the Americans had their *own*, home-made integrated transport policy.

And, *apart from the* RV itself, none of it cost all that much. Indeed, after buying *the* RV, *the* motorcycle, the bicycles and the Mini there had been enough left over to fund an itinerant lifestyle for as long as they wanted. Left over from what? Why, from the man's early retirement package. He had retired from . . . General Motors.

GOOD to see that British cars, the *Jaguar XK8 and the Range Rover* 4.0SE, topped the first security league table produced by *What Car?* magazine. But what an indictment of the industry in that of 72 cars tested, only eight met the Home Office criteria. I hope the makers of the other 64 will be shamed into taking action.

Jag lover finally has his dream

KEITH Pellen has been an enthusiastic driver since buying a second-hand Triumph TR2 more than 30 years ago — and he was more than delighted when he went to collect his new car last Saturday, *writes Christina Asare Owusu.*

For Mr Pellen from Theydon Bois, Essex, had won a *Jaguar XK 150* after entering a competition in *CAR 97* last month. He took his wife, Jean, to collect it from Garage on the Green, the specialist classic dealer in Fulham, London.

Mr Pellen, 53, a civil engineer, said he had always admired Jaguars and had wanted to own one for years, but the opportunity had never arisen.

The XK 150 with its 3.8-litre straight six engine was the ultimate development of Jaguar's first popular post-war sports car. It was the model which immediately preceded the ground-breaking and legendary E-Type.

"You can always tell when you are driving an old car. All the Jaguar cars which have come out are beautiful," he said.

Since that first TR2 he has driven a series of BMWs, a Land Rover *Discovery* and helped his son to build a replica AC Cobra. He drove the XK 150 home before retiring to the local pub to celebrate with a pint of Guinness.

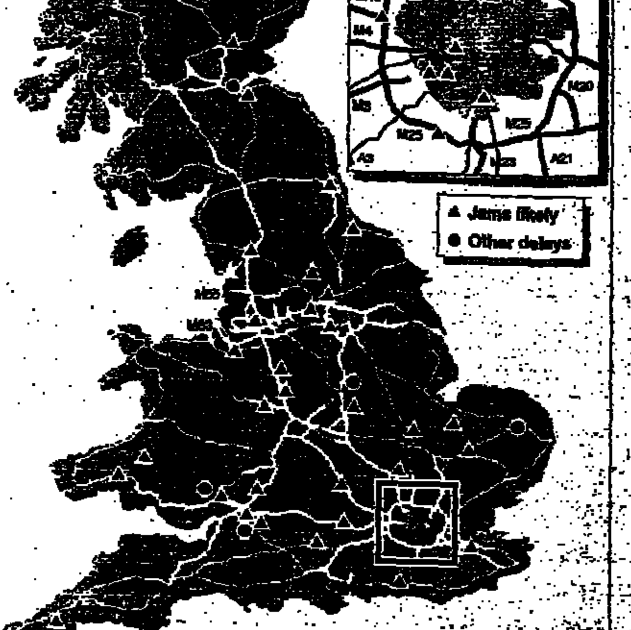
MARTIN BEDDALL

THE GARAGE ON THE GREEN
FULHAM LONDON

Winner Keith Pellen and his Jaguar XK 150: "You can always tell when you are driving an old car and all Jaguar cars are beautiful"

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic.
A406 Angel Edmonton. Major works at the A1010 Fore Street.
A237 *Manor Road*, Wallington, single alternate traffic *at the junction* with Melbourne Road.
A312 Faggs *Road*, Feltham. Carriageway reduced to *one lane each way due to* long term bridge maintenance at Faggs Bridge, *north of* Staines Road, between 6am *and 5pm.*
Richmond Park between Kingston Gate and Ham gate, closed for roadworks.
● ***SOUTH-EAST***
A34 Berkshire. Contraflow *and narrow lanes with 40mph* limit between M4 junction *13 and Newbury.*
A4 Padworth, Berkshire. *Temporary lights* at junction with A340.
M40 Buckinghamshire. Long-term roadworks with a contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wycombe East).
A41 Watford. Eastbound lane closure on North Western Avenue from Hunton Bridge roundabout to Leavesdon Green Interchange.
A414 Hertfordshire. Roadworks on St Albans Road, Hemel Hempstead.
M2 Rochester, Kent. Roadworks with various lane closures.
M40 Oxfordshire. Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use the A40 and A418.
M25 Surrey. Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.
A24 Findon Bypass. Lane closed northbound between Quadrangle and Long Furlong.
● **SOUTH-WEST**
A38 Old Bedminster Bridge, Bedminster. Major roadworks with lane closures on Bedminster roundabout.
M5 Bristol. Contraflow across Avonmouth bridge with 50mph limit.
A432 *Downend Road*, Bristol. Temporary lights at junction *with Croomes Hill and* Shrubbery Road.
A390 *Cornwall. Lane* restrictions in centre of Truro at the *Trafalgar roundabout.*
A417 Maisemore Bridge, Gloucestershire. Temporary lights during bridge work.
● ***MIDLANDS AND*** **EAST ANGLIA**
A1 between *Alconbury Hill* and Alwalton, Cambridgeshire. Construction *work with lane* closures, contraflow and 50mph limit.
A134 Stradsett, Norfolk, roadworks at A122 junction.
A1074 Norwich. Narrow lanes eastbound between *Larkman Lane and Sweet Briar* Road roundabout.
A52 Beeston, Nottinghamshire. Major roadworks on *Derby Road. Expect delays* between Sherwin Arms and Priory *roundabouts.*
A6 Leicestershire. Road*works between M1 junction 24* and Sawley Island.
M54 *Shropshire.* Contraflow with westbound *traffic on the shoulder.* Eastbound on to lanes 1 and 2 *of westbound carriageway.*
A50 Stoke on Trent: major *roadworks in the Meir area at* junction with A520.
M6 Staffordshire. Contraflow between junctions 14 and 15.
A1101 Mildenhall, Suffolk, closed at Kingsway between Lark Road and Kings Street.
● **NORTH**
A579 *Warrington, Winwick* link road closed.
M6 Cumbria. One lane closed both ways between *junctions 36 and 37.*
A58 Westhougthon, Greater Manchester. Closed southbound on Park Road between A6 and Crickaters Way, and between the Chequerbent Roundabout and Wade Lane.
A19 between Thornaby-on-Tees and Billingham, Cleveland. Major roadworks with two lanes each way and 50mph limit.
A65 between Skipton and Settle at Coniston Cold, North Yorkshire. Temporary lights following bridge damage,
M1 South Yorkshire. Long-term roadworks with 30mph limit at junction 47. Delays expected on M1, M621 and A653.
A134 Tyne and Wear. Contraflow on Felling bypass.
M1 West Yorkshire, junctions 43 to 42 Stourton to Lofthouse junction. Contraflow and 50mph limit.
M62 West Yorkshire. Contraflow and 50mph limit between junctions 28 and 29.
● **WALES**
A484 Carmarthenshire. Major roadworks on Francis Well in Tanerdy.
A449 Monmouthsire. Long delays between Usk junction and the M4 junction 24 at Newport with major roadworks in place.
A472 Torfaen. Contraflow at Pontypool.
A485 *Carmarthenshire.* Temporary lights at Duar Villa, Llanybyther.
● **SCOTLAND**
M9 Edinburgh. Long-term roadworks and restrictions on Newbridge roundabout.
A720 Ediburgh city bypass. *Contraflow* betweein Lothianburn and Dreghorn. *On and off-ramps at Dreghorn* closed.
M90 Friarton *Bridge, Perth* and Kinross. Contraflow.



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

SWISS ROLLS UP DRIVER'S TITLE

Alain Menu's Laguna on the way to his 11th victory

Alain Menu, the Swiss driver in his Williams Renault Laguna, *who has dominated the* season, wrapped up the *1997 British Touring* Car Championship at Snet*terton last weekend*, even though there are still another six rounds to be raced. He scored his 11th race victory of *the* season to win the driver's title on his 34th birthday.

But the series is far from over for the Volvo team whose fortunes have been followed by *CAR 97* readers. The cars prepared by TWR, whose other team Damon Hill's Arrows made such a tremendous *impact at the Hungarian* Grand Prix last week, are *locked in battle for second* place in the manufacturers' championship with reigning champions Audi and the fast-improving Honda team. Honda hold the spot now with 174 points against Volvo's 163 and Audi's 162. Although the championship is not yet decided, Renault's 68-point lead now appears to be unassailable.

*The chase for the run*ners-up spot in the driver's *championship* is closer still. Volvo's lead driver, Rickard Rydell, is in fourth place only ten points behind Menu's team-mate Jason Plato and six behind reigning champion Frank Biela. At Snetterton he recorded two fifth places to stay well in the hunt for honours. Team-mate Kelvin Burt failed to finish round 17 after a shunt with one of the Hondas, but managed eighth place in *the second race of the day* to add three points to his *tally. He is now in tenth* place in the driver's title race.

The next rounds will take place at the Thruxton circuit near Andover, Hampshire next weekend.

An unhealthy policy

Vaughan Freeman on how the Budget could hit your insurance premiums

Motorists face higher premiums as insurance companies wake up to the impact that Labour's first Budget is about to have on their costs.

The Association of British *Insurers believes the move* will mean motorists involved *in accidents* will in effect be taxed twice for their hospital treatment, first through their taxes and again via their car insurance premiums.

Ironically, the nation's 25 million or so drivers breathed a collective sigh of relief when Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown finally sat down having delivered his first Budget in July. At first glance, it seemed to have left *them relatively unscathed.* Brown had been expected to *impose fresh financial penal*ties on drivers, particularly the company car driver, so the announcement of a mere £5 increase on the tax disc (which comes into effect in November), and a long anticipated 6 per cent hike in petrol and diesel fuel levies, meant most drivers felt they had escaped.

What few had noticed hidden away in the Budget was the announcement — the effects of which have only now been fully appreciated — that *will cause the damage* to premiums.

Regarding the National Health Service, Brown said: "We will also act to recoup in full the cost of treating road accidents from insurance companies. This, like the action we are taking against prescription fraud, shows our determination to ensure the NHS resources are focused on frontline care."

Crash: hospitals can now claim back treatment costs

It means that hospitals and health centres in charge of their own budgets, will now *find it far easier* to claim back the costs of treating road accident victims *from the mo*torist involved. The costs are recouped on a *no-fault* basis. For example, if an uninsured pedestrian steps straight out in front of a motorist who is driving within the speed limit and perfectly properly, the cost of the pedestrian's treatment will be claimed back from the driver's insurance company.

The claim will *not* affect the driver's *premiums* directly, but long term the impact of *more* and *more claims* is certain to push premiums *higher as insurance com*panies try to recoup their *payments to the health service*, says Sandy Dunn, managing director of the Touchline Insurance Company.

Hospitals can charge up to £2,949 for treating a road accident victim as an inpa*tient, up to £295 for outpatient* care, and £21.30 for emergency treatment, including the cost of recovery by ambulance. Doctors called out to a road accident can also claim up to 41p per mile to cover their own *motoring* costs.

At present claims from hos*pitals and health* centres to insurance companies are running at around £20 million a year, but that is expected to rise to up to £150 million a year in the wake of Brown's budget statement.

"Motorists who are already heavily taxed on and off the road will simply end up paying an even *higher* levy to own a car," said Dunn. "This measure does not mirror the Government's principles only to increase taxes for those motorists who use their vehicles excessively. It will affect *everyone*.

"The industry has already *had to raise premiums to meet* the increasing cost of personal injury claims and to collect the rise in Insurance Premium Tax, which was increased from 2.5 to 4 per cent in April. Paying NHS charges will drive up motor insurance premiums even further and may lead motorists to compromise on the level of motor cover or, worse still, drive without insurance."

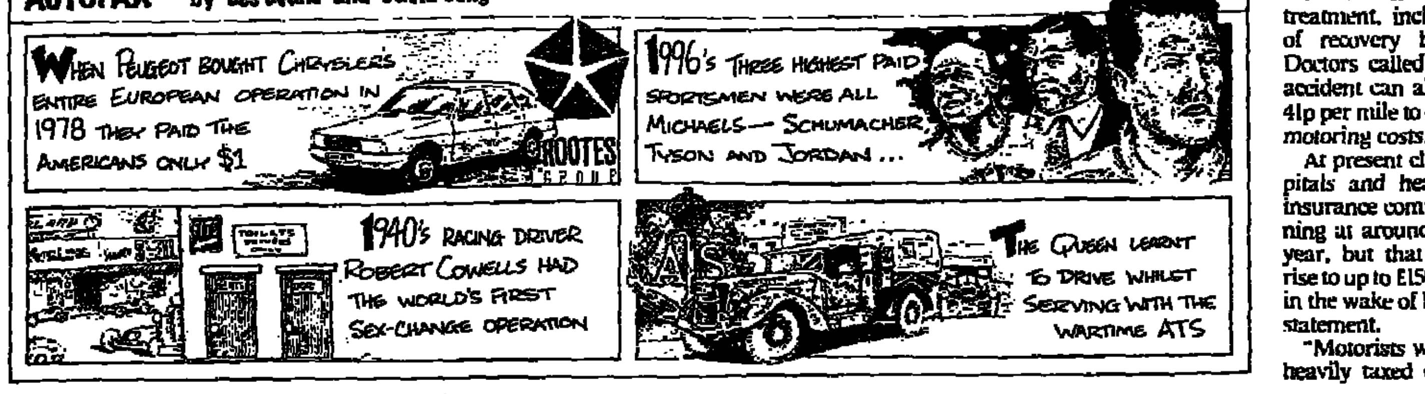
Suzanne Moore, *spokesperson* for the Association of British Insurers, said motorists now faced a double dose of tax, having already paid for hospital treatment through their tax, and again indirectly through the car insurance premiums.

Although the reclaim procedure had long been in place, Moore added that the Chancellor had now made the system far easier to use *and* that it was inevitable that *more money would be claimed* back from insurance firms: "It *is something that is becoming* more widely taken up as *hospitals* and *health* trusts dealing with their own budgets look for new ways of raising funds.

"If they all start claiming back these allowances it would bump up the amount that *insurers* were *having to pay* out, and if everything else remained equal that would push up claim costs and premiums to *motorists*."

The general advice for anyone about to renew their motor *insurance* is *that they shop* around as premiums can vary by *hundreds of pounds*. AA insurance spokesperson Becky Hadley said: "We would always advise motorists to shop around for the best quote. They *might* also try an insurance broker who will be able to find the lowest quote for them."

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long


WHEN PEUGEOT BOUGHT CHRYSLER'S ENTIRE EUROPEAN OPERATION IN 1978 THEY PAID THE AMERICANS ONLY $1
ROOTES GROUP
1996'S THREE HIGHEST PAID SPORTSMEN WERE ALL MICHAELS — SCHUMACHER, TYSON AND JORDAN ...
1940'S RACING DRIVER ROBERT COWELLS HAD THE WORLD'S FIRST SEX-CHANGE OPERATION
THE QUEEN LEARNT TO DRIVE WHILST SERVING WITH THE WARTIME ATS

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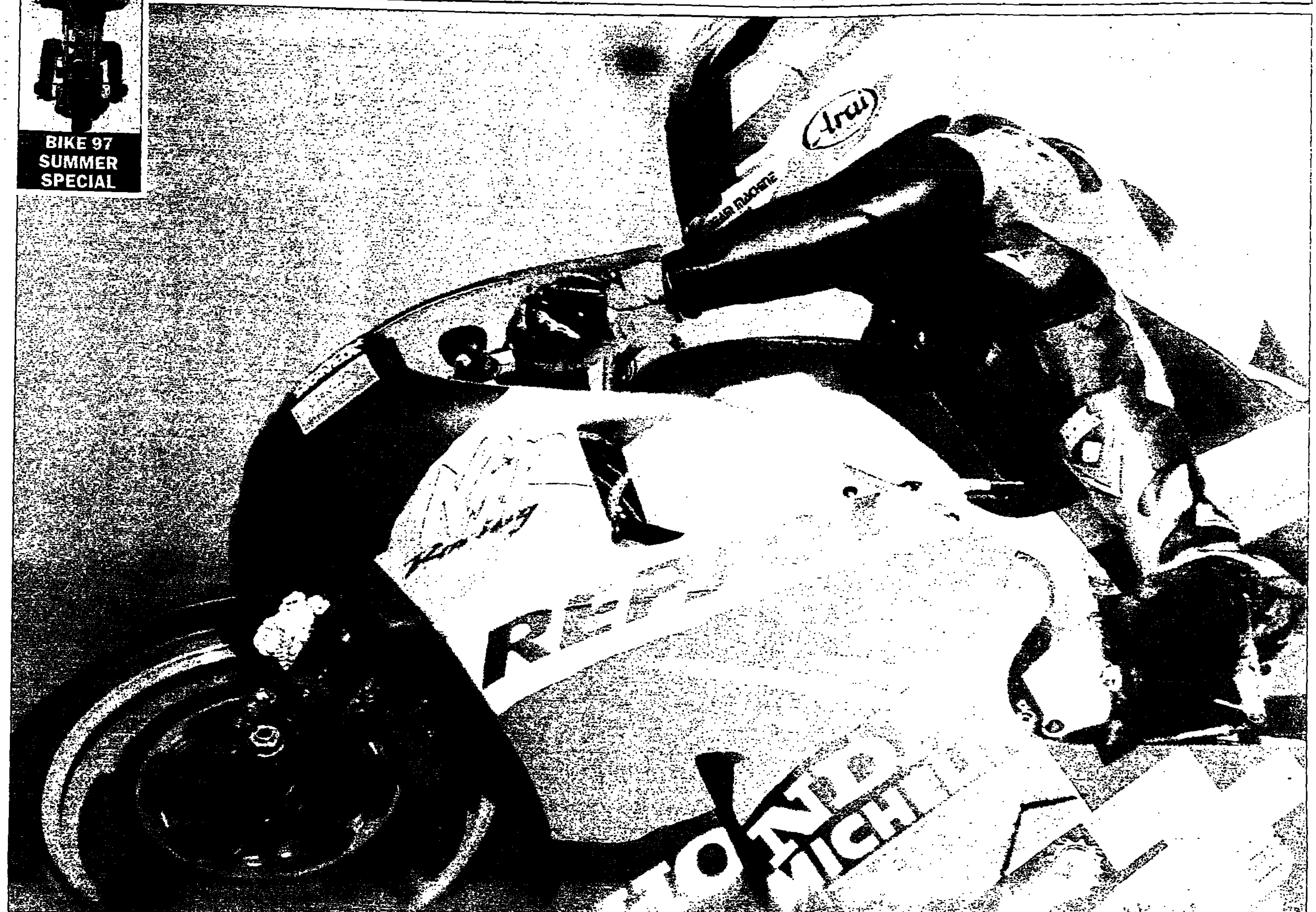
BIKE 97 SUMMER SPECIAL

MOTORCYCLING MONTH: MAKING THE BIG TRIPS WITH BRITAIN'S LATEST PASSION



"To anyone but a handful of the world's best racers — none of whom can match the man who has won nine of this season's ten grands prix — the NSR is untameable"

So much power, it's frightening

Riding world champion Michael Doohan's Honda is like no other experience, says **Roland Brown**

Even at 150mph, this crazy motorbike keeps on accelerating with a violence and a noise that chill the blood. My body is being thrust back into *the seat-hump* by its force; the scream of two-stroke exhaust note rises and falls rapidly as my *left foot tap-dances* on the gearlever to keep the Honda NSR500 in its power band.

My arms are straining to hold the handlebars of this compact brute, trying to lift its front wheel off the track as it *rockets towards its top speed* of around 200mph.

To ride world champion Michael Doohan's Repsol Honda NSR500 is to enter a new, scary world of motorcycling. It doesn't matter how *many fast* bikes you've ridden before; taking the controls of the machine that Doohan will *ride in tomorrow's* 500cc Grand Prix at Donington Park is an experience like no other on *two* wheels.

You'd hardly think so to look at it. Apart from its world champion's No 1 plates and *quartet of titanium* exhaust pipes, the NSR looks remarkably similar to a roadgoing superbike such as Honda's CBR900RR FireBlade. It has a twin-beam aluminium frame and single-shock rear suspension. Telescopic front forks *hold a 17in wheel. Even under* its carbon-fibre fairing, the NSR's 499cc V4 two-stroke engine, although unlike any *roadgoing unit* (partly because nothing similar would pass emissions tests), has carburettors instead of fuel-injection, and no traction control system to moderate its output.

But any apparent simplicity is misleading, for the NSR is a pure-bred, single-minded racing machine that has been *refined over more than ten* years into the fastest and most sophisticated motorcycle in the world. *Honda is coy about* precise figures, but the NSR produces close to 200bhp — far *in excess of any roadster's* output. Yet at just 130kg, this bike weighs less than a humble 125cc learner machine. Its *chassis may look ordinary*, but every component is built from exotic, lightweight materials *and is the best that no money* can buy.

In the hands of Australian ace *Doohan, who needs only seventh place* in tomorrow's race to secure his fourth consecutive 500cc world title, *the NSR is a finely honed* instrument that responds to every input — and even so, the bike is constantly at the very edge of control.

Doohan brakes so hard that the rear wheel leaves the ground. In corners he routinely controls a front-wheel slide — a crash, in any normal rider's terminology — with his knee, by pushing down on to *the track. He exits the bends* with his front wheel lifting and his wildly spinning rear slick *tyre painting a black rubber* line on the Tarmac.

To anyone but a handful of the world's best racers — none of whom can match the man who has won nine of this season's ten grands prix — the NSR is *untameable*. Even the best get mauled. Alex Criville, Doohan's team-mate and the *only man to beat him this* year, crashed at Assen in Holland in June and was *badly injured when his NSR* landed on his hand. A fall at the same circuit in 1992 cost Doohan that year's champion*ship, and very nearly his right* leg — at one stage, surgeons considered amputation.

I was reminded of that as I climbed aboard the Repsol-liveried Honda in the pit lane of the Eastern Creek circuit in Australia. Doohan's injury prevents him using a conventional *right-foot* brake lever, and chief technician Jerry Burgess pointed out the bike's *special handlebar brake lever*, alongside the clutch lever.

A mechanic pushed me *down the pit-lane. I let out the* clutch, the motor came to life with a rasping two-stroke exhaust crackle, and I headed out on to the unfamiliar circuit.

The great irony of the NSR500 *is that it isn't difficult* to ride at all. A dozen years or more ago, grand prix motorbikes were *fussy, demanding* creatures whose engines barely ran outside their narrow power bands. *But as I negotiated* a cautious first lap it became clear that the lightweight Honda's forgiving handling was *matched* by the flexibility of its motor. From below 8,000rpm the NSR pulled as hard as the fastest road bike, the power smooth and controllable.

But you don't ride an NSR500 like that — and a lap later, coming on to the down*hill main straight, I opened the* throttle properly. Suddenly the sleeping beast awakened and went on the rampage. The real power lies between 10,000 and 12,000rpm, and at such revs the NSR isn't like a road bike at all. *In third gear at over* 100mph the front wheel snapped off the ground, then *did the same thing in fourth as* I held the throttle wide open and changed up through the semi-automatic gearbox, which cuts the ignition momentarily.

A*s the straight disap*peared in seconds, it was as much as I *could do to hold on* and pull myself forward to keep some weight over the *front wheel. There was no* room to approach the NSR's 200mph top speed, but I was *travelling at over 180mph be*fore braking for the next bend. And if the NSR's acceleration was fearsome, the stopping *power provided by its carbon*-fibre discs and Michelin front slick tyre (I ignored both rear brake levers, thanks) was no less so. The Honda threw so much weight on my arms that *I was reminded why Doohan's* upper-body strength is legendary even among his rivals.

In the bends the NSR's control, balance and ease of steering was almost surreal; certainly, no road bike will feel up to standard again. No matter how hard I tried — and I was cornering fast enough to *wear out a fair bit of knee*-scraper — the NSR refused even to twitch. Its rigid frame *and state-of-the-art suspension* simply allowed the bike to react perfectly to every rider command.

Doohan, of course, rides so hard that the bike is bucking around on every lap, as he *slides the rear tyre to* get maximum drive on to the next straight. "Keep the revs above *10,000rpm," he had* warned. "If it spins at 8,000rpm, you'll be over the bars for sure."

But such heroics are for the chosen few only. For anyone else, riding the NSR500 is a *humbling experience. My* handful of laps over, I cruised back to the pits — stunned by the Honda's speed, but with no more idea than before of what the world's finest racebike is like at its limit.

Brown with Jerry Burgess, Doohan's chief technician

REPSOL HONDA NSR500

Engine: 110-degree V4, 2-stroke, 499cc produces approx 195bhp at 12,000rpm.

Transmission: Six-speed gearbox. Chain final drive.

Performance: 0-60mph, approx two secs: max. 200mph.

Price: Not for sale. For selected factory riders only.

Mike's very quick one for the road

Vaughan Freeman meets the speed record breaker with numberplates (but no mirrors)

High standard: Mike's ZZ-R1100

Think of the motorway speed limit, triple it, add a bit more, and you're getting close to the *speeds* Mike Grainger reaches on his awesome street-legal motorcycle.

Mike's bike might look like an out-of-the-shop standard Kawasaki, and *around Devon he can be seen* burbling around on it to and from work. Yet this is a motorcycle that has been timed at *222mph* flat out, and has *just broken the* British and European land speed records for machines in its class.

For the record-breaking attempt *Mike took his* Kawasaki *ZZ-R1100 to* the Elvington airfield near York. Taking a somewhat eccentric approach to his record-breaking, he *made just one* concession to travelling at light aircraft speeds — he removed the mirrors.

As he hurtled down the runway, *Mike reached* 212mph, with an average speed for the record of 209.05mph, measured with a flying start over *two quarter-mile sprints*. Only a strong cross-wind he says prevented him *adding an extra* 15mph, but it was more than enough to give him the Category A1 national record for solo machines up to 1300cc, plus the European record.

Mike, 46, started his motorcycling career in 1966 on a BSA 250cc that cost him £15: on a good day he *aspired to 65mph*. Back then *motorcycling* meant Mods and Rockers, Triumphs and Nortons, black leather, white silk scarves, and woolly *fishermens' socks rolled over* the boot tops. For any motorcyclist of the times "Doing the ton" was the ultimate dream. A "double ton" was *pure science fiction.*

Some 30 years later Mike, who runs GT Motorcycles, with outlets in Torbay and *Plymouth*, turned fiction *into fact* with his Kawasaki. Even in ordinary form the ZZ-R1100 is an *impressive 1,050cc machine, capable* of 174mph and costing £10,000. Of his beefed-up 1,100cc version, he says: "The motorcycle is a fairly standard *ZZ-R1100, except that I have fuel* injected it, and put on a turbo charger which has taken the power to something like 350bhp on the rear *wheel. Given all the development* work we have done on it, it is probably worth around £20,000.

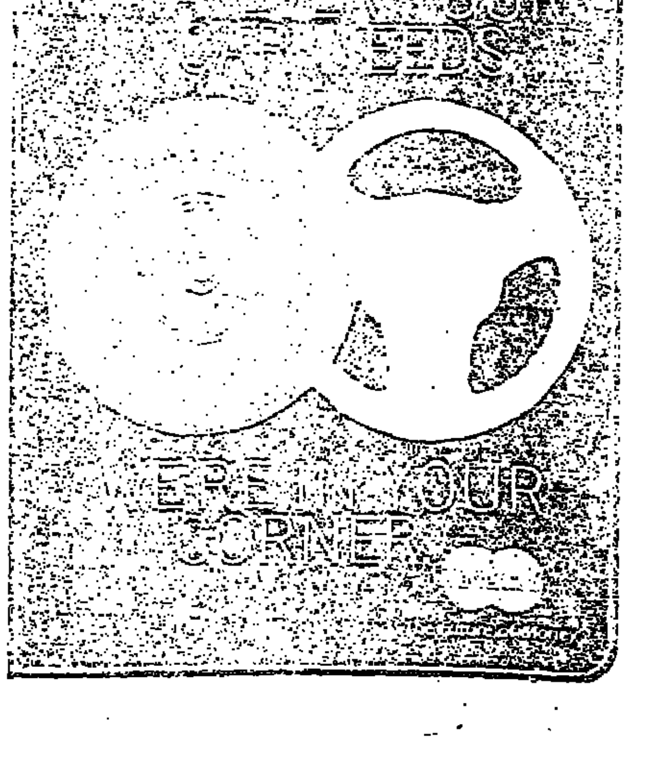
"It is still very much a road bike *and still very usable. I ride it around* town, although at under 30mph the engine runs a little unevenly and is slightly hesitant, but once it is rolling *is fine.*

"It is fast though. If you try a standing quarter of a mile on it your front wheel will still be off the ground *at the end of the run* through the acceleration. It will go from 0 to 60mph in under two seconds, and *travel the length of a football pitch in* less than a second."

His other records include that for a 900cc production machine with a *"flying start" 162.44mph over one* kilometre, and the production machine record for a 900cc, with a standing start over one mile, returning *an average speed of* 125.98mph, both done on Kawasakis.

What has proved so satisfying about his latest record is that it was *set not on a purposely designed out*-and-out racing or dragster-type motorcycle, but on a standard roadgoing machine, complete with *numberplate, lights and indicators.*

What does his wife, Sue, make of it all? "I think she has got used to it. The record attempt was a bit risky, but *not a lot more dangerous than riding* on the road. Things can go wrong anytime, but I check the bike carefully before every run. *It is risky*, but so is walking across the road."



AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS AT A GLANCE

IF YOU CANNOT FIND THE VEHICLE YOU DESIRE CONTACT YOUR AUTHORISED DEALER LISTED BELOW

Alfa Romeo

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ. Phone 01252 334055

STAFFORDSHIRE - Platts of Longton Lightwood Rd Longton Stoke on Trent, Staffs, ST3 4JG. Tel: Lee Rose on 01782 599400

Aston Martin

KENT - Lancaster Sevenoaks Ltd 92 London Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1BA. David Bradshaw 01732 456300

NORWICH - Stratton Motor Company (Norfolk) Ltd Ipswich Rd Long Stratton, Charlie Skelton Tel: 01508 530491

SURREY - H.W.M. LIMITED at New Zealand Avenue, Walton on Thames, Surrey, KT12 1AT. Paul Spires 01932 220404

Audi

LONDON - SCOTTS AUDI 214 Pavilion Road, London SW1X 0AN. Sales Tel 0171 730 2131. Services Tel 0171 730 5464

BMW

HERTFORDSHIRE - Specialist Cars London Road, Stevenage, Herts. Tel 01438 760200 Web http://www.specialistcars.co.uk/bmw/

LONDON - MLG of CHISWICK at 492 - 496 Chiswick High Road, London, W4 5TT. Please call 0181 995 1683

LONDON - BATES IN LONDON at 289 - 299 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall Bridge, London SE1. 0171 582 6000

Aston Martin

BMW

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE - SYTNER DIRECT 165 Huntingdon Street, NG1 3NH. Used Car Manager Mel Smith 0115 924 1144

SURREY - Coombs of Guildford Styfield Green Estate, Woking Road, Guildford GU1 1RD Freephone 0800 285 495

CATERHAM CARS

DERBYSHIRE - John Noble Motorsport Unit 21 Station Lane Ind Est, Old Whittington Chesterfield, 01246 453867

FIAT

HAMPSHIRE - Cleveland Cars Ltd Ash St (A323) Ash, Aldershot Hampshire GU12 6LZ. Phone 01252 334055

HONDA

KENT - WHITEHOUSE HONDA 20 Broadway, Bexley Heath, Kent DA6 7LN. Tel: 0181 303 6363 Fax: 0181 301 5763

ISUZU

DORSET - Meridien Majestic Garage Ltd Wallisdown, Bournemouth, BH11 8QE. Contact Kevin Butt 01202 526111

JAGUAR

CAMBRIDGESHIRE - Marshall Peterborough Tyrrell Park, Boongate PE1 5PT Alan Womack 01733 313338

KENT - Lancaster Sevenoaks Ltd 92 London Rd, email:jaguar@sevenoaks.lancasterplc.com 01732 456300

LONDON - WOODFORD JAGUAR 50 - 56 High Road, Woodford, London, E18 1AS. Steve Russell 0181 989 6644

LONDON - Stratstone of Mayfair 40 Berkeley Street, London, W1X 6EN Stewart Banks 0171 629 4404. Sun 0468 505672

WEST MIDLANDS - COLLIERS at 166 -168 Birmingham Rd, Sutton Coalfield, B72 1BX Keith Gallagher 0121 355 6151

WEST YORKSHIRE - Appleyard Jaguar Bradford Northbrook Street, Canal Road, BD1 4RQ Mike Smith 01274 394439

WEST YORKSHIRE - Perrys Jaguar Northgate, Huddersfield, HD1 6AP. Contact Howard Jessop 01484 481200

LAND-ROVER

LONDON - LANCASTER CITY at 68 - 70 High Street, Stratford, E15 2NE New and Used Models 0181 522 0023

LEXUS

BERKSHIRE - Currie Motors Rose Kiln Lane, Reading. Mike Miller www.lexus.co.uk/curriemotors 01734 758877

LONDON - HASSOP LEXUS 291/295 Willesden Lane, London, NW2 5HY. Call Ferdy Gottschall 0181 459 0008

SHEFFIELD - Monty's of Sheffield, 260 Penistone Road, Sheffield, Please Contact David Pepper on 01142 855555

LOTUS

DERBYSHIRE - Peter Smith Sports Cars. Station Road, Hatton, In Derby, Derbyshire, DE6 5EL. Tel: 01283 813583

DERBYSHIRE - Peter Smith Sports Cars. Station Road, Hatton, In Derby, Derbyshire, DE6 5EL. Tel: 01283 813583

mazda

LONDON - CURRIE MOTORS Wimbledon 166 The Broadway Wimbledon, SW19. Please call 0181 543 1131

MERCEDES

BERKSHIRE - SUNNINGDALE CARRIAGE COMPANY London Road, Berkshire. Telephone 01344 871200

ESSEX - London Road Mercedes Tel: 01708 730424/ Fax: 01708 748855. Visit at www.londonroad.co.uk

ESSEX - London Road Mercedes 20-28 London Road, Romford. Tony Comarsaga Sales Manager T: 01708 730424/Fax 748855

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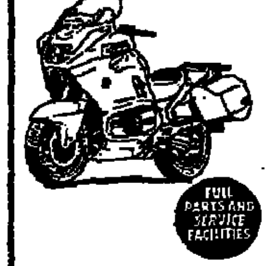

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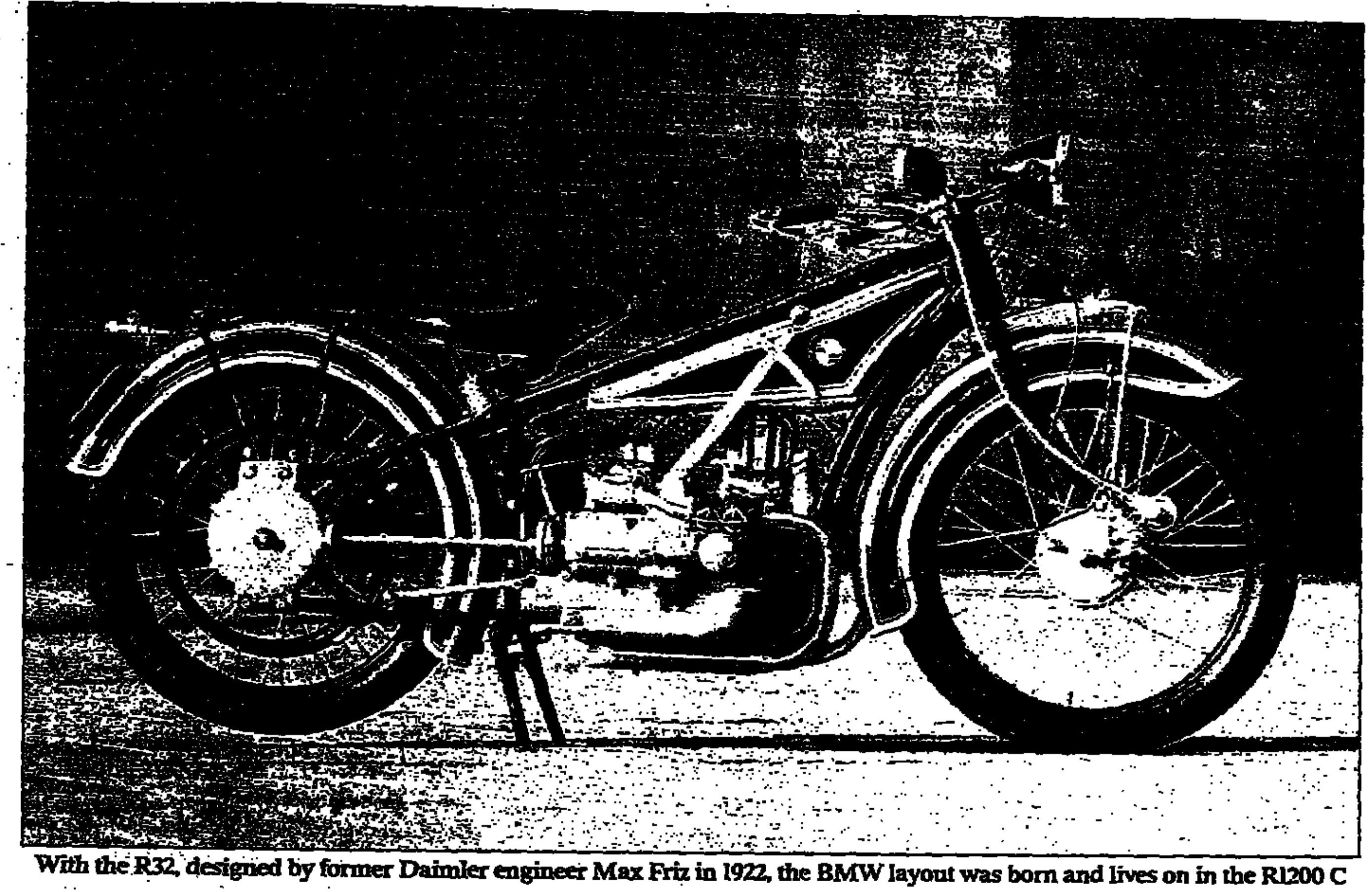


With the R32, designed by former Daimler engineer Max Friz in 1922, the BMW layout was born and lives on in the R1200 C

Champion boxer at 75

BMW built bikes before cars. **John Naish** looks at how the Treaty of Versailles began a distinguished history

Classic motorcycle engines have a habit of sticking around: Harley-Davidson has its long-serving in-line V-twin, Moto Guzzi traditionally uses a V-twin mounted across the frame — and BMW has the famous two-cylinder boxer.

It's the motor that founded the BMW motorcycling tradition, the one they use on their superbikes today, and is also the cornerstone of the German vehicle-builder. For BMW's first motorcyle made its world debut in October 1923 at the Paris Motor Show, some five years before the Bavarian manufacturer ever built a car.

The company started life as an aero-engine manufacturer, but the Treaty of Versailles banned Germany from building aircraft, so the firm turned to developing its first motorcycle engine in 1921. From the word go it was a two-cylinder boxer, but the 500cc unit was only fitted to Nuremburg bikemaker Victoria's machines.

When Victoria stopped making bikes, BMW decided to build its own, and in 1922, former Daimler engineer Max Friz was charged with designing BMW's first bike. Thus, 75 years ago, the classic BMW layout was born.

Victoria had placed the engine lengthways across the frame, but Friz turned it around, so that the cylinders stuck out on both sides in the cooling air. And because the crankshaft now ran down the length of the frame, Friz was able to equip the new bike, the R32, with a relatively straightforward shaft-drive system.

The same configuration is at the heart of the new R1200 C cruiser we are giving away, as well as the rest of BMW's range of high-performance boxer twins — but they've had the benefit of more than seven decades' development.

Back at the Paris Motor Show, however, public reaction to the new German design was mixed. Some feared that the engine's cylinders would inevitably become damaged in an accident. Others criticised the low power output — only 8.5bhp (The R1200 C's detuned engine, by comparison, puts out 61bhp).

Nevertheless, the R32 was strong on torque. The design's low centre of gravity meant it was stable at its 56mph top speed, and the marque won a reputation for reliability that justified the high price; the R32 sold 3,000 units by 1926.

The boxer was soon to shake off its reputation for low power. In 1929, BMW broke the world motorcycle speed record using a supercharged 750cc engine to reach 134mph.

And in 1937, a supercharged 500cc machine hit 173mph, a record that was to last for 14 years. Racetrack successes were being racked up, too, with BMW scooping both the European Championship and the Isle of Man TT in 1938.

The Second World War left BMW starting from scratch. Initially, the Allies only let the firm build single-cylinder bikes: the world had to wait until 1950 for another 500cc boxer twin. While the company looked set for an immediate renaissance, with the 1954 sports-oriented RS achieving 125mph performance, the motorcycle market slumped in the 1960s, with only 4,700 motorcyles being built in 1969.

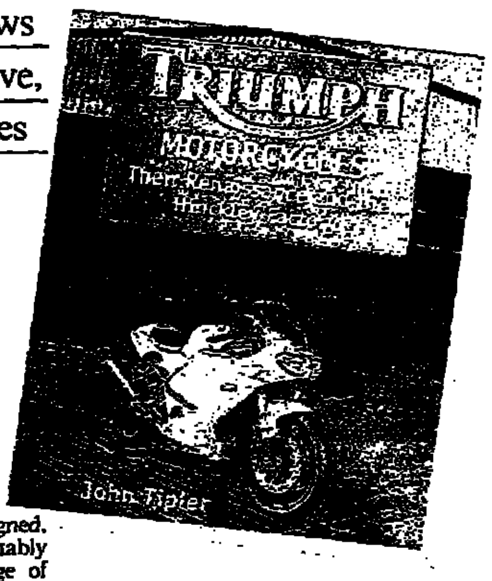
The slide was reversed in the 1970s, with classic models such as the luxurious and expensive R90S — still with the boxer motor — firmly establishing BMW as a topmarque for touring.

But 1983 saw the introduction of an in-line four-cylinder range, followed by in-line three-cylinder machines in 1986. That was not the end of the boxers: instead the configuration was completely overhauled in 1993, with a new four-valve engine with electronic ignition and combined oil/air cooling.

The boxer fights on, and it's still a winner: this year 60 per cent of BMW's motorcycle sales come powered by that familiar twin-cylinder layout.

This is the house that John built

Michael Jackson reviews a new, somewhat selective, history of Triumph bikes



Tipler's tale: conscientiously told, but somehow it fails to stir the emotions

Books about Triumph contain the potential to stir the emotions more profoundly than those about their contemporaries; even more so, surprisingly, than the equally ubiquitous raft of Harley Davidson publications.

Thus I was eagerly anticipating an emotional stir from John Tipler's *Triumph Motorcycles: Their Renaissance and the Hinckley Factory**, the first hardback covering the remarkable 12-year reconstruction by John Bloor, an enigmatic Staffordshire housebuilder. In little more than a decade not only has he designed, developed, and produced an acceptably modern large capacity modular range of motorcycles, he has shoehorned them into the world marketplace alongside Honda, Harley, BMW, Ducati et al. And all *sans* Government subsidy, City venture capital or advice from Harvey-Jones.

Triumph's manufacturing processes and final model specifications are assiduously chronicled. The lavishly equipped factory is predominantly staffed by thirtysomethings and the whole complex is unquestionably "buzzing". But Tipler, somehow, just fails to stir the emotions. Triumph extended its co-operation and he spent requisite time observing/reporting upon the sophisticated production infrastructure. Conscientiously written, then, but composed more in the style of an articulate editor of an owners' club magazine than, say, Iacocca's opus on Chrysler.

The two burning questions are the firm's bottom line, and Bloor's motivation. Sadly, neither are addressed. In the opening two chapters many of the ingredients of the company's colourful past are adeptly condensed, and with fair accuracy, since the original Triumphs first stirred on to the streets of Coventry in 1902. Consider this soupcon of historical ingredients:-

Between the wars J.Y. Sangster buys Triumph, giving Edward Turner, mercurial MD/chief designer, a free hand to design the groundbreaking 500cc Speed Twin in 1938. Postwar, Turner creates the Thunderbird and Bonneville, but, following Sir Bernard Docker's dramatic departure from BSA, an enforced linking with the Birmingham Small Arms colussus begins to sow the seeds of destruction. Meanwhile, Marlon Brando, the Metropolitan Police, Elvis Presley, Steve McQueen, Lord Snowdon — the list goes on — all endorse the product they ride.

Triumph gains the land speed record in Utah at 214mph, then scoops the prestigious Daytona 200 several times. Later, a muddled Department of Trade and Industry partly underwrites a "takeover" by a barely rejuvenated Norton Villiers, which, unwittingly, hammers more nails into all the residual British motorcyle coffins. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Lord Stokes, and Geoffrey Robinson pledge themselves to a workers' cooperative venture to keep Triumph in the market, but in 1983 it expires. RIP.

Such was the "provenance" Bloor purchased. A communication blackout ensued for the next six years while the umbilical link with traditional Triumph "baggage" was severed. This sensible move allowed the embryo company an uncluttered run-up to the global launch of the all-new range of seriously oil-proof multis at the Cologne Show in 1990. A seamless momentum began.

Given Triumph's almost Teutonic obsession with "doing it right, from scratch", one ponders the product to which it aspires beyond the millennium? Ultimately, of course, John Bloor could evolve into as successful a maker of motorcycles as he is a builder of houses. That will be the moment for the definitive book on the subject.

The writer was Director, Norton Triumph Europe 1973-76.

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Both the Lanos, left, and the Nubira contain much input from Daewoo's blossoming engineering facilities and some famous consultants, but do not spring clear into the late Nineties. They are interim ranges, evidence of what might be to come

USED CAR BRIEF

DAEWOO ESPERO
By rehashing the old Vauxhall Cavalier in a shiny new package, and tying a ribbon of excellent customer care around it, Daewoo ensured its Espero sold, and sells, by virtue of its service rather than technical brilliance. The 4-door Espero saloon was launched in 1995 with 1.5, 1.8 and 2-litre petrol engines, and in three trim levels ranging from the pampering to the cosseting.

GOOD NEWS: Extraordinarily high levels of equipment. All cars get power steering, anti-lock brakes, and electric windows all round, and CD players feature in many cars as well as leather seats and alloy wheels.

BAD NEWS: Essentially the Espero is a 10-year-old Cavalier. So for the keen driver the dated mechanical design is a turn-off. The Espero cleverly hides its origins, but [illegible] driveability, handling are far inferior to more modern offerings such as the Ford Mondeo and Peugeot 405.

LOOK FOR: Few Daewoos are sold privately and even fewer through non-Daewoo approved outlets. Some say this keeps prices for used Daewoos artificially high. The bonus of buying through the official channels is the unparalleled back-up service, such as free MOT tests and courtesy cars during services.

AVOID: While the GLXi and CDi are well-equipped the CDXi adds a CD player and alloy wheels to the CDi's air conditioning and electric sunroof. The 1.5-litre engine is slightly underpowered. Best bet is the 1.8-litre car, though the 2-litre gives another 10hp for stress-free motorway work.

SAFETY: The Espero is at heart a Vauxhall Cavalier, a car which gets an average rating for safety according to the Department of Transport, although the Espero has anti-lock brakes and driver's airbag as standard.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1995 Daewoo Espero 1.8-litre CDi costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £154 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male with one year no claims living in south London pays £667, and a similar female pays £577.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (Prices supplied by Glassmatix 01932 823823): Clutch assembly £95; full exhaust £229; catalytic converter £348; rear damper £41; front brakepads £39; alternator £178; starter motor £149; radiator £155.

PRICES: Expect to pay £8,000 for a 1995 M-reg 1.5i GLXi, £8,600 for a 1995 N-reg 1.5 GLXi, £9,250 for a 1995 N-reg 1.8 CDi, £9,300 for a 1995 M-reg 1.8 CDi automatic, £10,000 for a 1995 N-reg 2.0 litre CDXi and £11,200 for a 1996 N-reg 2.0 CDXi automatic.

OVERALL: When South Korean manufacturer Daewoo arrived here in 1995 it pledged the sort of customer care usually only enjoyed by Rolls-Royce owners. Used cars bought from a Daewoo dealer come with a comprehensive back-up package that has startled rivals and gives buyers great peace of mind. If your prime concern is bland motoring free of worry, then the Espero is for you.

FORECOURT

■ THE good news for two-wheeler fans enjoying this month's special *Car 97* articles, is that used motorbike prices are on the way down, with new bike prices frozen for the near future, *writes Vaughan Freeman.*

Values for used motorbikes have dropped for the second month in a row, falls that come hot on the heels of April and May when prices showed only the smallest of increases, reports the *CAP Green Book* on motorbike prices.

Values for used motorbikes overall dropped by 0.9 per cent in July, and around 1.4 per cent in June, so that used machines in general are 2.6 per cent cheaper than they were in February.

Rob Hobson of *CAP Green Book* says: "Used values continue to be under pressure in all sectors, from lightweights, including mopeds and scooters, all the way up to the supersports motorbikes."

While motorcycle dealers wring their hands, there are few signs of the current situation changing as 1997 P-registered machines, part-exchanged over the coming weeks against brand-new "R" plate motorbikes, come on to the used market, which makes two-wheeler forecourts a happy hunting ground for those customers who are seeking a used bargain.

Hobson says: "The opinion among most dealers is that with new bike sales running 30 per cent higher, there will be a flood of used bikes back into the market as owners look to get out of them towards the back end of the year."

Nearly-new big bikes set to become sound second-hand buys include Honda's Fireblade and CBR600, although prices for older machines — such as a five-year-old Suzuki GSXR1100 — are likely to rise as insurance premiums for such motorcycles fall, making them more affordable to run.

For those interested in a brand new motorcycle, there is no need to rush and buy for fear of prices soaring during autumn. One side-effect of the ever-increasing strength of the pound is that since just about every two-wheeler sold in Britain is built abroad and imported, major price increases in the immediate future are unlikely.

Daewoo plays it safe for the second generation

The Korean carmaker will still need direct selling and customer extras for its new models, says **Ian Morton**, while we wait to discover how much it can really achieve

ROAD TEST

Daewoo is under no illusions. While it claims the UK record for rapid growth by a new marque — 1 per cent of sales within two years of entering the market — it does not suppose it was the appeal of the cars alone that established the beachhead.

The old Vauxhall technology behind the plainly presented Nexia and Espero models with which Daweoo launched in 1995 was acceptable, but hardly inspired. What made Daewoo special was price, direct retailing and three years' free back-up including servicing and unlimited use of a courtesy car.

Now Daewoo is launching three new models which it hopes will add the inspirational factor — the Lanos hatchback and saloon and the larger Nubira saloon and estate from September 11, and the executive Leganza later in the year.

The Lanos starts at £8,795 for the three-door 1.4, and Daewoo has worked out that a Fiesta with comparable kit costs 44 per cent more, while the 1.6 has a 39 per cent advantage over the Rover 216. The Nubira 1.6 at £11,995 has an edge of nearly 19 per cent over a similar Vectra.

Direct retailing remains the keystone, and the strategy will again include free cars to 100 customers to monitor product and service. The marque still needs those special effects. The new cars contain much input from blossoming engineering facilities and famous consultants, but do not spring clear into the late Nineties. They are interim ranges, evidence of what might be to come.

Lanos, which will compete with Astra, Rover 200, Hyundai Accent and Seat Ibiza, dates from late 1993 when a proposal by Italdesign was selected. Porsche worked the chassis, Ricardo was given development of the General Motors-designed 1.4 and 1.6 engines, Delphi took on engine management and anti-lock brakes, and GM Powertrain was involved with automatic transmission. Lanos took only 30 months from approval to start of production.

Nubira, whose natural quarry is deemed to be Vectra, Hyundai Lantra, Mitsubishi Carisma, Chrysler Neon and senior Ford Escorts, took 32 months to get through its first phase. Exterior design was by Italian style house IDEA, whose solution was massaged by Daewoo's own Seoul-based Design Forum. Interior style was fashioned by Design Forum and Daewoo's main European technical centre in Worthing. Engineering was shared by Worthing and Seoul, with input from Delphi and GM Powertrain. Development of the 2-litre engine was overseen by GM Holden.

Both ranges have emerged with ultra-safe styling. Apart from the distinctive three-part grille with its wheatsheaf centre section, neither model looks anything other than carefully curved and pleasantly proportioned.

Lanos and Nubira sum up the unmemorable international norm, and in the quest for volume sales Daewoo is probably delighted with them. Of course the cars meet all the regulations. Safety-conscious customers will cheer the standard ABS and twin airbags.

I drove versions of both over three days in five Continental countries (the Leganza was not yet available). Of the 1.4 and 1.6 engines, the smaller is the smoother, quieter and better suited to the Lanos, but its performance is very limited. It lacks pull below 4,000rpm, takes almost 15 seconds to pass 60mph, needs plenty of gearwork to stay in contention even on a modest incline.

But it moves around town pleasantly, settles comfortably at 70mph for a relaxed 3,200rpm, and even at its maximum of just over 100mph (at 5,700rpm) does not sound strained. Steering is balanced and responsive, handling and road-holding competent.

With the 1.6 engine — its updating includes 16 valves — the Lanos feels almost brisk with 0-60mph in 11.6 seconds and 113mph top speed, and the abilities of the chassis to tie down the structure despite softish springing become more evident. But the engine note is constantly hard and the suspension has an unfinished manner, picking up just about everything the road surface has to offer.

Put the same engine in the more spacious Nubira, however, and you have a civilised car which delivers 0-60 in 10.5 and up to 116mph with no more than an acceptable drone of effort. The unruly mechanical business has gone. Road blips too are absorbed with no more than a little jogging at speed, while wind and road noise are slight and distances pass comfortably.

The 2-litre delivers better figures, of course, but 0-60mph in under nine seconds and a maximum 122mph have their drawbacks. This larger unit not only generates an intrusive drone but suffers from boom periods. Impressions of refinement and balance built up by the chassis at lower speeds evaporate as you thrum down the motorway.

More development necessary? Better quality control on the Korean production line? It will be the generation after this — Daewoo cars that have shed the old GM attachments which served to get the marque under way — which shows us what this livewire company can really achieve.

DAEWOO LANOS AND NUBIRA

LANOS
Engine: 1.4-litre four-cylinder giving 74bhp at 5,400rpm: 1.6-litre 16-valve four-cylinder giving 105bhp at 6,000rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual, four-speed auto.
Performance: 1.4 manual: 0-60mph in 14.8 secs max 104mph. 1.6 manual: 0-60 in 11.3 secs, max 113mph.
Economy: 1.4: urban 24.8mpg, extra urban 47.9, combined 35.6. 1.6: urban 23.5mpg, extra urban 45.6, combined 34.4.
Equipment: Anti-lock brakes, twin airbags, power steering, split/fold rear seat.
Price: £8,795-£11,195.

NUBIRA
Engine: 1.6-litre four-cylinder giving 105bhp at 5,800rpm: 2-litre four-cylinder giving 132bhp at 5,400rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual, four-speed auto.
Performance: 1.6: 0-60mph in 10.8 secs. max 116mph: 2.0: 0-60 in 8.8 secs, max 122mph.
Economy: 1.6: urban 23.2mpg, extra urban 41.5, combined 32.1. 2.0: urban 20.9mpg, extra urban 39.2, combined 29.7.
Equipment: Anti-lock brakes, twin airbags, electric front windows, remote locking, tilt-adjust wheel, split/fold rear seat.
Price: £11,995-£13,995.

Family members come in all sizes

Daewoo makes no secret of its ambition to be among the world's top ten by the millennium with annual sales of two million cars. And now the company has revealed the strategy at the heart of its plan — one family of petrol engines emanating from a single design which can be produced with six, four or three cylinders.

Called the XS family, it is based on a light and compact in-line six-cylinder block under secret development in Germany for two years. This unit is short enough to fit transversely across the engine bay of a medium car — the first Daewoo to carry it will be a version of the forthcoming Leganza. Two cylinders will drop off the end to produce a four-cylinder version, and a three-cylinder engine will structurally be half a six.

Design and manufacturing will be so flexible that these engines will come off the same production line in whatever order and quantities Daewoo needs. The six-cylinder engine will be of 2.5 litres, with four-cylinder engines of 1.4 or 1.6 and three-cylinder units as small as 800cc.

Since the Leganza with XS six-cylinder is not due to appear until 1999, details are still under wraps, but according to Andreas Truckenbrodt, co-chief at Daewoo's technical centre near Munich, the prototype is little more than an inch longer than the current four-cylinder engine.

With main accessories it weighs under 300lbs compared with the 363lbs of the BMW 2.5-litre in-line six, says Truckenbrodt, and will be far lighter and less complex than any comparable V6. With plenty of space around it, the unit will be easy to service — a central Daewoo requisite.

Working with German specialists, Daewoo engineers have achieved these compact dimensions by developing the narrow bore/long stroke principle. This also offers low fuel consumption and emission characteristics, says Truckenbrodt, and preliminary results have been "very competitive".

"We are using advanced but affordable technology and materials — no ceramics at the moment," he said. "We want to lead the world, but low production cost is extremely important. We must expect that labour costs will increase in those areas where they are presently low, so other costs must be contained. To be able to manufacture all XS engines on one transfer line is a very important element of this."

Today Worthing, tomorrow the world

With millions invested in personnel and high technology, Daewoo's Sussex plant stands at the leading edge of global car development

A major role in the development of the Nubira was played by a technical team in Sussex by the sea. More than 1,000 engineers, mainly British, are now working in Worthing to make Daewoo a major international automotive force, *Ian Morton writes.*

Daewoo bought the facility — formerly the independent consultancy International Automotive Design — three years ago to give itself a fast start in Europe.

"The acquisition was typical of Daewoo's approach," said Jim Mason, managing director of engineering. "It provided an instant springboard to having a serious R&D centre in the shortest possible time.

"While starting with a clean sheet of paper has many attractions, not least being able to establish your own systems and work practices, there are many disadvantages such as having to build infrastructure and not being able to hit the ground running. Worthing was able to make a positive contribution almost at once to some of the many projects proposed by Daewoo.

"We were given the major responsibility for the development of the Nubira. All our work here is original. We are working at the leading edge of whole-car development. We are not a Europeanisation facility whose purpose is to make Korean cars acceptable in European markets."

The centre, which has expanded to a second site nearby, has an annual operating budget of £40 million and an annual investment of £15 million in equipment and facilities. It is linked to Daewoo technical centres in Korea and Germany by digital communications which transfer large quantities of information within seconds. When fully operational, it will handle about half the Daewoo global development workload, Mason says.

Current projects include development of Daewoo's forthcoming city car, codenamed M100; a convertible version of the Lanos: the creation of Tacuma, a small MPV based on the Nubira platform: and car and light commercial design work for Daewoo manufacturing facilities in Korea, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Already the facility has achieved a 24-month concept-to-start-up development programme, and took the Shiraz, a model designed for the Geneva motor show, from design to completion in under 16 weeks. Shiraz will form the basis of a new executive model scheduled for launch in 1999.

As well as designing and building prototypes, the facility is deeply into testing and boasts one of the world's three 18-channel test rigs (the others are at Mercedes-Benz and Porsche). This can replicate in three weeks the stresses a car would suffer over six months and 76,000 kilometres of traditional road testing over every cruel surface from Belgian paving to Third World potholes — though in the course of it a female technician may be found sitting in the shaking car listening for and locating rattles and squeaks.

"For some things," admits Mason, "at the end of the day you can't beat a good pair of human ears."

Helem V6 GTR: among the fastest coupés on the market

SPARE PARTS

■ A ROADGOING version of the Helem GTI Spider Coupé developed for racing at Le Mans and other GT championship events over the past two years is now available in Britain.

With a top speed of 177mph, the Helem V6 GTR will be among the fastest coupés on the market. It is designed around the alloy chassis of the racing Helem Spider but will feature a longer wheelbase to make way for a larger engine. Using a tuned and turbocharged Renault V6, the car produces 280bhp.

The car is imported by Eurotec Racing of Lulworth, Dorset and has a price tag of £37,695 with left-hand-drive. Prices for right-hand-drive versions will be announced shortly. Cars are built to order but the specification includes full leather trim, air conditioning, driver's airbag and 18in Speedline wheels.

■ FORD has announced price rises for most car and commercial vehicles from Monday. The average increase is 1.2 per cent, enough to push the price of a Fiesta 3-door 1.25 LX from £9,945 to £10,085 on the road. An Escort 5-door 1.6 LX goes up from £13,390 to £13,550 and a 2-litre, 7-seat Galaxy Aspen rises from £18,285 to £18,490. Some models, including Focus versions of Fiesta, Escort and Mondeo and the Ka and Puma, escape price rises. Ford will now follow the lead of other manufacturers in quoting on-the-road prices (including road tax and delivery), rather than basic list price.

■ THE 50,000th Fiat Coupé rolled off the production line at Pininfarina last month, just over three years after the car — as renowned for its looks as its performance — was introduced. It has helped establish the company once known simply for design and coachbuilding as a major vehicle manufacturer. Its other products include the sumptuous Bentley Azure and the pretty Peugeot 306 Cabriolet.

Vaughan Freeman meets an environmentally-aware Bloomsbury garage owner

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Jim Murray with Zara, left, and Zoe: "We step out of our front door sometimes and the pollution just sits there"

Pumping cleaner air into our city streets

Garage owner Jim Murray has put his childrens' health top of his business agenda by making his garage the first private forecourt in Britain only to sell a new kind of super-clean diesel.

Anxious over the asthma suffered by his daughters Zara, nine, and Zoe, six, Murray and his wife, Anna, decided to do something about the capital's growing pollution problems directly by changing their pumps over to the cleaner, but more costly fuel, a move which they admit is a calculated commercial risk.

The switch to selling the ultra-low emission diesel, known as Citydiesel, at their Store Street garage in London's Bloomsbury, comes as a seven-year survey of cardiac patients published last week links heart attacks directly to traffic pollution for the first time.

The report, in *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, looked at links between traffic pollution and heart attacks, and found that increases in hospital admissions for heart complaints coincided with a rise in pollution counts.

The Murrays, who also have a four-year-ld son, Jamie, five just round the corner from their business, in nearby Gower Street. Sometimes, says Murray, the polluted air is so thick you can cut it with a knife: "Our two girls have asthma, and we have had our share of traumatic times when they have suffered attacks.

"I am convinced that traffic pollution has a lot to do with asthma. We step out of our front door sometimes in the mornings and the air is literally blue. The pollution just sits there, it's incredible. So I decided I would do something about it."

Murray spoke to Greenergy UK, who make Citydiesel, which has been sold at Sainsbury's forecourts since 1996, and decided to stop selling petrol and regular diesel in favour of the cleaner diesel.

The problem is that because the Citydiesel is refined twice to make it so much cleaner, it is also more costly, around 4p-5p a litre dearer than ordinary diesel.

Now Murray must wait and see if van, car and London taxi drivers will be prepared to pay the extra and do their bit for cleaner air.

"I know that what I am doing is a risk, but it is calculated one, not a lunatic risk," he says. "The reaction so far has been very favourable. Taxi drivers are coming back, although van drivers don't seem to care what they put in their vehicle so long as it goes."

The key he says is for the Government to reduce duty on the ultra clean diesel, in the same way it did on unleaded petrol when it was first introduced, and remove the financial disincentive likely to act as a bar to diesel drivers swapping to the more environmentally-friendly fuel.

"If the Government wants the air to be cleaned up, it has to encourage private motorists and companies to go for it by reducing the duty on Citydiesel.

"Drivers with ordinary diesel in their tank can top it up with Citydiesel with no problems, and this fuel also gives them a cleaner engine that will work more efficiently."

Around 25 per cent of London buses already use Citydiesel and Greenergy UK spokesman Nick Attenborough says the fuel has 50 times less sulphur in it than standard diesel, and produces 28 per cent less of the particulates which have been linked to lung illnesses, and 50 to 70per cent less carbon monoxide.

It is virtually odourless and does not produce the distinctive blue smoke on start-up that ordinary diesel fuel puts out into the atmosphere. Attenborough says: "We are hoping now that the Government will cut the duty on this fuel."

The increasing popularity of Citydiesel could be the white knight to save diesel, once hailed as the great environmental saviour because diesel-engined cars covered more miles per gallon.

Regular diesel has suffered a bad press following the publication of recent studies. These have shown that as well as emitting around 90 per cent of all the vehicle-related particulates linked to lung problems and asthma, regular diesel also emits more sulphur and nitrogen oxides, which, as well as being potential health hazards, also contribute to ground level ozone and summer smog.

Pressure to clean up the nation's cars and their fuel must not be eased, said the AA this week. In a report on the success of unleaded petrol and catalyst-fitted cars, the assocation found that toxic pollution from road transport has dropped roughly 25 per cent since 1992, when the catalyst was introduced on new cars.

There was no room, however, for complacency said Martin Maeso, head of the AA's Environmental Policy: "The next step must be to focus our attention on the small minority of gross polluters that litter our roads and to drive the 10 per cent of vehicles that cause half of all vehicle pollution off the road."

All the better after another 8,000 miles

The BMW 325 Touring travels well, writes

Stuart Birch

Writers of second-hand car ads have a vocabulary all their own. "Drives well" means it will probably start; "good condition" means tatty, "excellent condition" means not bad for its year and 100,000 miles.

But the ultimate piece of hyperbole is "as good as new". In the case of the diesel BMW 325 tds Touring, I would regard it as a phrase to be avoided; this car is far better used than new. I know, because I have lived with one for more than 8,000 miles.

Not that it was in any way bad when it was delivered, but as the miles have disappeared beneath its grippy, Michelin Pilot tyres, the Touring has steadily improved. Most new cars are "tight" for the first few hundred miles but the BMW had covered about 4,000 before it began to show its mettle. Now it is really on form — enjoyable and responsive and still improving.

The tds part of the Touring's name means it is turbo-diesel powered. Output from its 2.5-litre, six-cylinder engine is 143bhp, enough to get it to 60mph in about 10.5 seconds and on to a potential top speed of more than 125mph.

Not only is this relatively big indirect injection diesel engine impressive in terms of economy and performance, it sounds surprisingly sporty. Most manufacturers are now paying great attention to engine noise, trying to balance the need to meet decibel legislation with growing demands for engines that sound as if they are enjoying work. The BMW's engine has a macho growl that undulates almost musically as the car accelerates hard and smoothly. Once cruising, the engine note settles to an unobtrusive hum.

Turbo-diesel engines and automatic gearboxes often make highly compatible partnerships and the 325 tds is among the happiest: up-shifts on a light throttle are all but undetectable. There is a button-operated sport setting which blocks out fifth and makes for snappier responses.

Like other BMW 3-series versions, general handling and road-holding of the Touring earns plenty of house points but the ride, which is fine on motorways and main roads, is unsatisfactory over secondary roads.

The Touring is not a bulk carrying estate car but more of an elegant but versatile medium load carrier. With its divided and folding rear seats in place and loaded to window level, luggage space is 30 cu ft. But lower them and there is 46.6 cu ft to roof level. Rear seat legroom is not generous, but the driving position is excellent, with seat and steering wheel height adjustment.

At £26,075, the 325 tds Touring automatic is hardly in the bargain basement class. Standard equipment includes ABS, central locking and fog lamps — but a radio is still an extra! Air-conditioning can be fitted in lieu of a sunroof, but for only £500 you can specify both.

Heated front seats at £295 are a vital extra — the car's heater takes its time to get really hot. A passenger airbag adds £480 and metallic paint £445. Different integrated child seats can be specified.

With high quality, good economy and performance, plus reasonable load carrying capacity, the 325 tds Touring is an impressive package that improves as the miles mount. It travels well.

325 TOURING

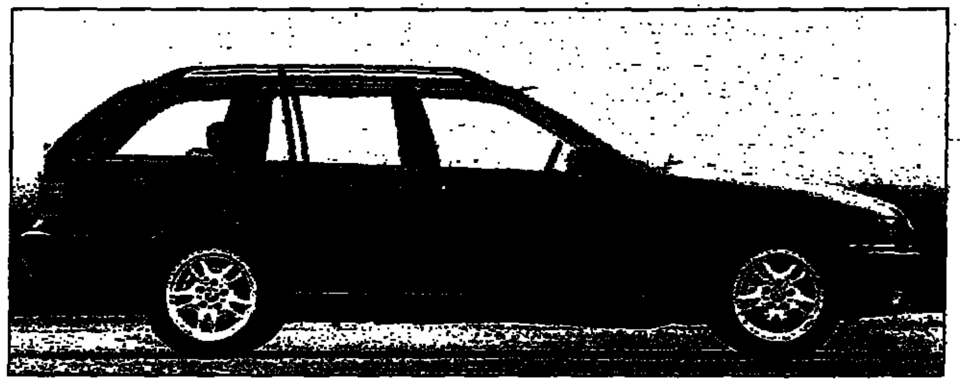
Engine: Four-cylinder, 2.5 litre indirect injection turbo-diesel giving 143bhp.

Transmission: Five-speed switchable automatic.

Performance: 0-60mph in 10.5 secs; top speed 127mph.

Economy: Official combined 32.8mpg; on test 34.9mpg.

Price: £26,075.


BMW 325 Touring: sporty, with a macho engine growl that undulates almost musically

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280SL 1977 Auto. Hard/soft top. 1 owner. 70,000 mls Beautiful cond. Metallic pale green. £13,250ono. 01225 742239.

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E290 Diesel auto 96N N/SHAPE silver extras [illegible] £22,800 inc 01622 648248 t

C280 Auto, 94M, Climate Control 8 Hole Alloys, Electric Sun Roof, Door Closers, Azurite Blue with Mushroom Hide £29,995. 01924 201390

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94M 4.6 HSE Avalon 32T
95M 4.6 HSE Beluga Black 32T
95M 4.6 HSE Epsom 40T
95M 4.6 HSE Niagra 28T
95M 4.6 HSE Epsom Green 36T
95N 4.6 HSE Biarritz Blue 32T
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96P	C230 Komp Spt B/silver, spl/sts, 5sp 'A', c/c, el/sts, esr, AMG alls	8T	£27,995
96P	C230 Komp Spt G/black, spl/sts, 5sp, a/con, ew x 4, hlww, alg, AMG	14T	£26,995
94M	C280 Elegance Almandine, m/r, 'A', a/bag, c/c, rhr, esr, r/st	22T	£19,995
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Putting the family on four wheels

THE Austin Seven, renowned for bringing car ownership within reach of working-class pockets, first emerged from the Longbridge works in Birmingham 75 years ago. This milestone in motoring history is being celebrated by the devoted owners of many of Sir Herbert Austin's surviving Chummys, Opals, Pearls and Rubies, as the Seven was variously and affectionately known. More than 80 Sevens set out today on a two-week tour of France, including 14 brought from Australia. They plan to cover 1,400 miles in stately rather than record-breaking style. **Ronald Faux** looks back on a motor car of simple excellence that is internationally admired.

Rosemary Spence in her Austin Seven Opal: "It has been a very cheap way into owning a classic car as a hobby"

Designed in great secrecy on the billiard table at Lickey Grange, Sir Herbert Austin's home near Birmingham, when his company was on the verge of bankruptcy, the Austin Seven put more families on to four wheels than any other car of its day. More than 300,000 were sold between 1922 and 1939 in more than 320 variants.

I reckoned it to be the biggest car in the world, with lustrous black stove-enamelled wings and headlights large enough for a lighthouse. That was how our succession of Sevens appeared to me as a three-year-old. The car spelt travel, excitement and the seaside and we can still visit the dent in a fence my father made in his search for reverse gear. The roof of one was torn off by an aircraft coming in to land on Southport beach.

Sir Herbert made rough drawings on the billiard table and handed them to Stanley Edge, an 18-year-old engineering draughtsman seconded from the Austin works for the project. Three prototypes were produced, the first abandoned because it hopped like a kangaroo. The successful version was unveiled at Claridge's in July 1922 and exhibited at the Motor Show the following October. Sir Herbert had pushed ahead with his plans against the doubts and criticism of some fellow directors and, at £225, the car proved an immediate success. Growing numbers and a more efficient assembly line brought the price down to £165. The early attempts to ridicule the "motorised pram" or "soap box on wheels" rebounded and became terms of endearment rather than ridicule.

Bernard Griffiths of the Austin Seven Clubs' Association, says that 3,500 Sevens are registered and probably 6,000 survive worldwide. "They are immensely tough little cars, designed to be put right by the village blacksmith and to last a long time. People have driven them round the world and they rally from Land's End to John o'Groats. They spawned other cars, among them the first Lotus, BMW and, in a convoluted way, the first Land Rover. They raced at Brooklands and I think it was Campbell got 100 miles an hour out of one on the Daytona salt flats. There were supercharged Ulsters, open top sports, box saloons; many, many varieties that shared the same basic chassis and engine," he says.

> 'It was, even in its day, simple yet rugged and gave inexpensive, available transport'

The Seven offers the cheapest and most convenient way into classic car ownership. Spare parts remain plentiful when repairs are beyond the village blacksmith. A relic in need of full restoration may be found, if you are lucky, for a few hundred pounds. A working runner requiring no more than tender loving care would be around £3,000, but an immaculately restored example of Seven exotica, such as the top-of-the-range Chummy or a Gordon England Sunshine Saloon, might fetch up to £9,000.

Griffiths says the reason for the Seven's continuing appeal is simple: "They were a part of just about everybody's past. It was, even in its day, simple yet rugged and gave inexpensive, available transport. It was overloaded, abused, repaired by Heath Robinsons, but still kept going."

Sevens regularly clock up 200,000 miles and are said to give their best when about to die. The 780cc side valve engine produced 10 brake horse power at around 4,000rpm and, unless they are regularly maintained, the brakes are said to require written notice to perform an emergency stop. Motor manufacturers of the day had views on braking performance. Sir Herbert insisted that good brakes encouraged furious driving, while Ettore Bugatti ducked responsiblity when the braking performance of his cars was criticised: "I build cars to go, not to stop.

Light Car and Cyclecar found it "an energetic little car" which clung to the road confidently. Though the brakes were never "startlingly sudden", the car handled Birdlip hill with a following wind at 15mph with no signs of steaming. The first road test of the Austin Seven in *The Autocar* began by describing the car as a miracle, doing so much so well for so little cost.

Which is how Rosemary Spence, wife of the vicar of Kirkbride in Cumbria, feels about the 1936 Opal open tourer she has owned for 15 years. The car had spent all its life in the Isle of Man and was therefore a very low mileage model.

"I potter about in it. If we're caught out in the rain, the water tends to leak in where the brake handle goes through the floor and through gaps in the side screens, but otherwise it is pretty watertight. It has been a very cheap way into owning a classic car as a hobby," she says.

We potter out with the hood down and the breeze whistling past the upright little windscreen. Sir Herbert was no aerodynamicist and the early Sevens have the streamline qualities of a brick.

We reach 35mph and, as the hedgerows unwind, the little car gives an impression of being on rails. Most Sevens have only three gears, but the Opal has the luxury of a fourth which made little real difference to performance. The engine ticks along like a proverbial sewing machine and the transmission and gearbox grumble contentedly. For the first time in many years, I double declutch into second gear approaching a junction. There is a slight grinding of cogs and the trafficator — all the rage among safety-conscious motorists in the Thirties — flips out like a salute as we round a bend.

"I got up to 50 once with a following wind. Not a speed that you would think twice about in a modern car, but quite exciting in a Seven," Mrs Spence says. "If Malcolm Campbell got more than 100 out of one, I wouldn't have liked to have been in it."

Early Austin Seven advertising: the legendary car has now become an ageless classic

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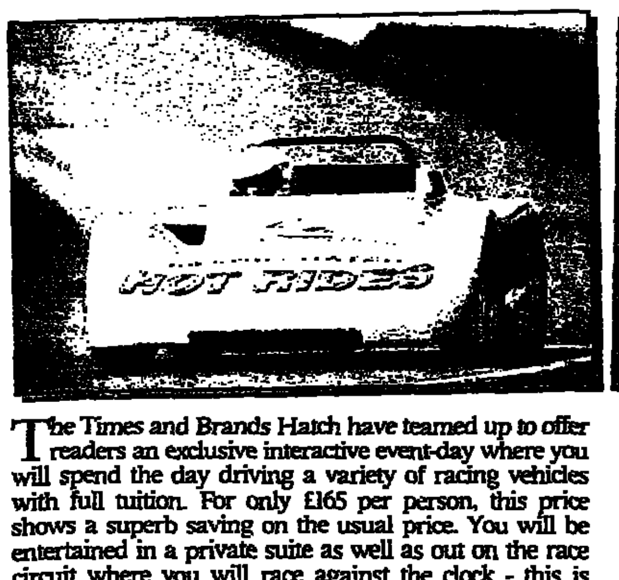

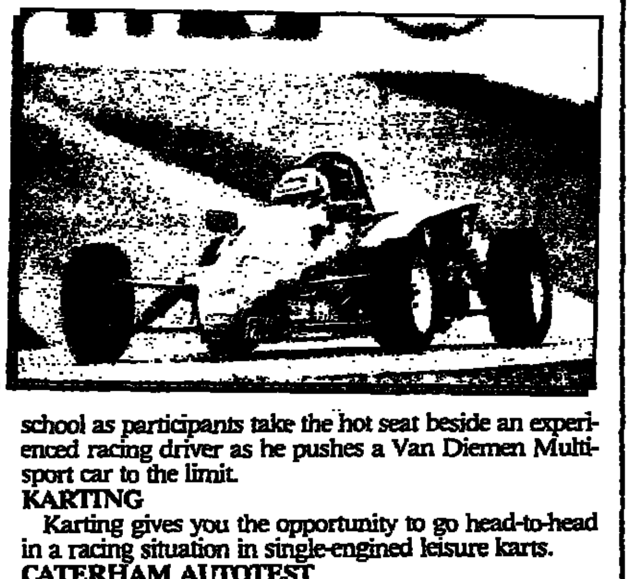

The Times and Brands Hatch have teamed up to offer readers an exclusive interactive event-day where you will spend the day driving a variety of racing vehicles with full tuition. For only £165 per person, this price shows a superb saving on the usual price. You will be entertained in a private suite as well as out on the race circuit where you will race against the clock - this is guaranteed to be a day to remember:

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Cheered to the echo at the wheel of a Wartburg

A classic cross-Germany rally is not for the faint-hearted, but it's a great way to travel, says **Claire Furnell**

As Saturday dawned at London City airport and we boarded a flight to Mönchengladbach we reflected on the challenge we were about to undertake. Two British journalists in an East German car for 1,250 miles in the "2000km durch Deutschland", a classic car rally that this year attracted more than 180 cars and 15 classic motorcycles.

On arrival, my co-driver, Matt, and I were introduced to our car — a Wartburg, a curious vehicle with a 1 litre 2-stroke 3-cylinder engine. Our rivals were widely varied. In addition to the vast number of Mercedes and BMW's there were also several American cars, a couple of Auto Unions and Lagondas, even a three-wheel Morgan and the oldest car in the event — a 1925 Bullnose Morris.

With the first car to leave on Sunday morning at 7.30 we were all up for the first of many 6am swims in the hotel pool before heading for Frankfurt, with 14 stamps to collect at various checkpoints. "You are greeted like all-conquering heroes along the route," Matt had explained, and he was not too far wrong. At every point we visited, people were out in force.

We began Monday at 7.45 in Frankfurt on a 394km day to head toward our finish at Stuttgart via the spa town of Baden-Baden. All went well until Artie the Wartburg, as he had become known by us, stalled in the traffic and refused point blank to restart. We pushed him into a nearby garage and called out the AvD, Germany's version of the RAC; two hours later the problem was diagnosed as water in the carburettor and solved.

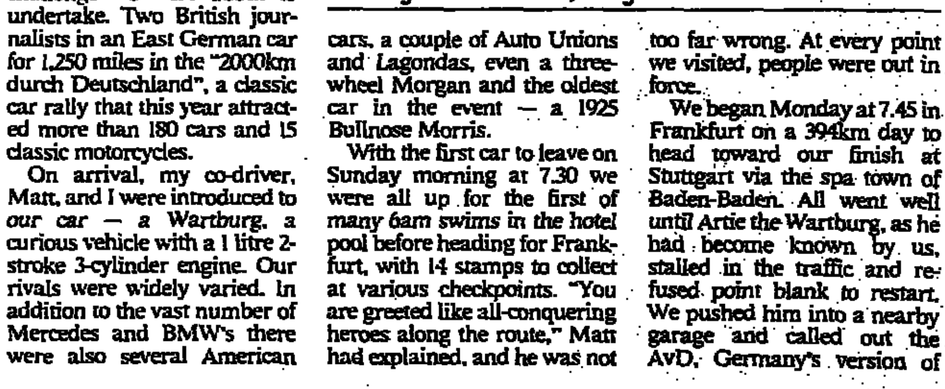
On Wednesday we had a short trip of only 272km to Dresden. We had few problems and made all the checkpoints and everywhere the reaction was the same — *Vartborg, Vartborg!* screamed the crowds. People patted the car and shook our hands, asked for autographs and showered us with gifts.

The start in Dresden on Thursday morning was delayed until 10 o'clock to allow competitors to take in the sights of the beautiful town. From then it was on to Magdeburg for the evening. Friday began cold and gloomy with the rain that had already caused the evacuation of some German towns apparently heading our way. By lunch time we had reached Hanover and enjoyed our lunch before heading on to make our way to Bad Wildungen; but after not too long the driving rain and bad roads saw the end of our rally in a ditch and although not badly hurt we finished our journey that day by train. Several other cars had also had problems due to the weather, but no one was seriously hurt.

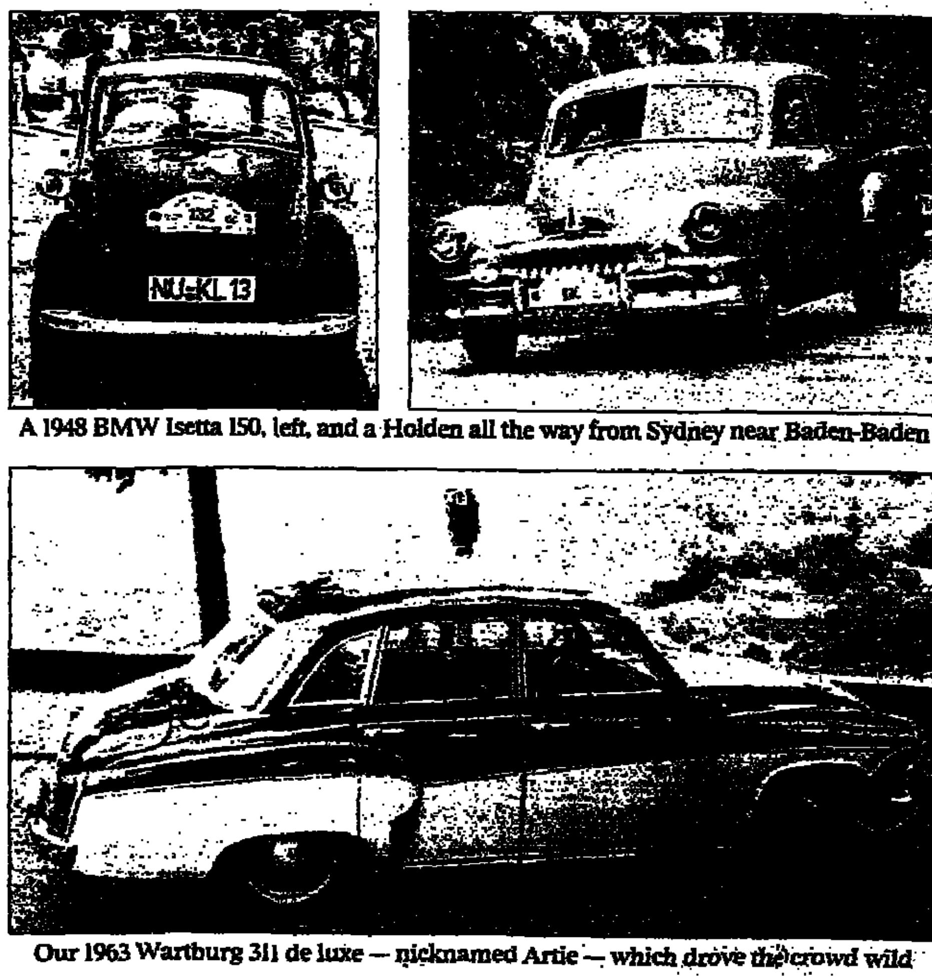
Saturday saw the remaining competitors make the 445km journey back to Mönchengladbach, where a great deal of sponsor Geldermann's champagne was being consumed to celebrate the end of a successful and well organised rally.

This is a great way to enjoy your classic car and to see Germany, the crowds, the people and the scenery. But with stages up to 500km, it is hard work. Navigation is relatively easy to understand — just take a phrase book — but you must keep your wits about you at every turn so as not to lose your way.

It's not as famous as the Mille Miglia, but if you want to test your classic car over more than two days, the 2,000km is a good challenge.



A 1948 BMW Isetta 150, left, and a Holden all the way from Sydney near Baden-Baden



Our 1963 Wartburg 311 de luxe — nicknamed Artie — which drove the crowd wild

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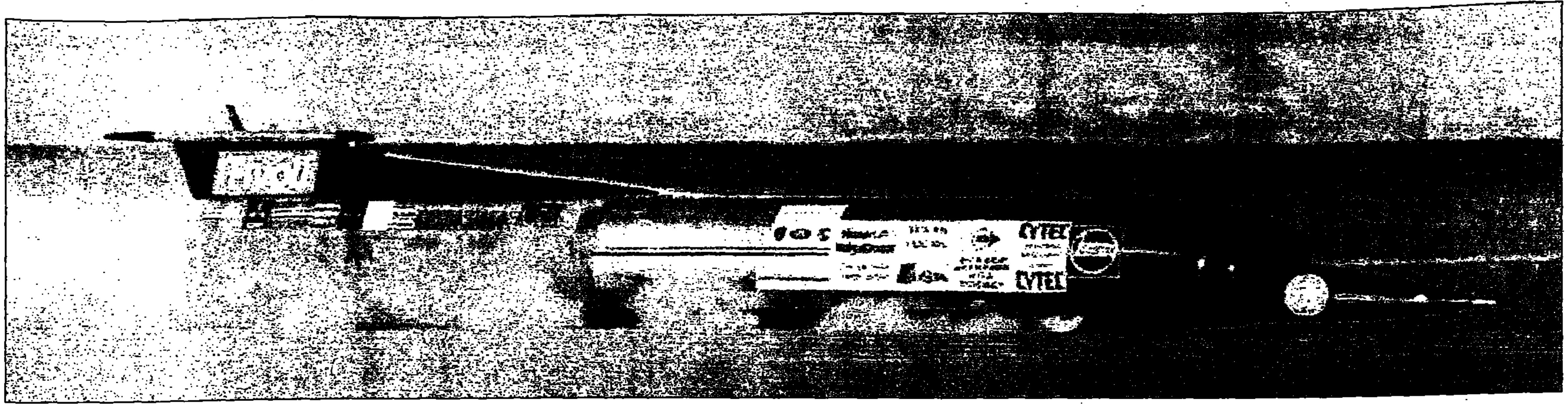
Britain's challenge to America for the land speed record could stall in a cash desert, says **Alan Copps**



Thrust: the race is now for the money

The *Black Rock Desert in* Nevada is ready, the veteran record-breaker Craig *Breedlove and Spirit of* America are ready. Thrust SSC, the British contender, is ready. The only *ingredient missing from the* supersonic challenge is the cash to get Thrust there.

Two months ago the mighty British car in the hands of Flt Lt Andy Green reached 540mph during trials on a desert track in Jordan. That track was too short for a record bid, but the speed was within 100mph of the existing land speed record held by project director Richard Noble and within 200mph of the speed of sound, the goal for both Thrust and the Spirit of America in what Noble calls "the greatest car race on God's Earth."

But as Green demonstrated Thrust's readiness this week with a 200mph whizz along the runway at the team's Farnborough, Hampshire headquarters, Noble was pursuing his relentless quest for funds. Thrust SSC with its huge twin jet engines, design speed of 850mph and astonishing technology is the product of a shoestring operation compared to the *corporate resources of Shell which is* backing its American rival, and the logistics of getting it set up and to *the race site are hugely expensive.*

Noble, who reached 633.468mph in Thrust 2 to set the present record *in 1983, has worked tirelessly* wheeling and dealing to keep the project on the road. Now he is looking for one last injection of cash to get his car to the start line.

"The US desert will flood in October and we couldn't keep the 30-man team together through another winter. We either go to the US now and get on with the job, or we put Thrust into a museum," he says.

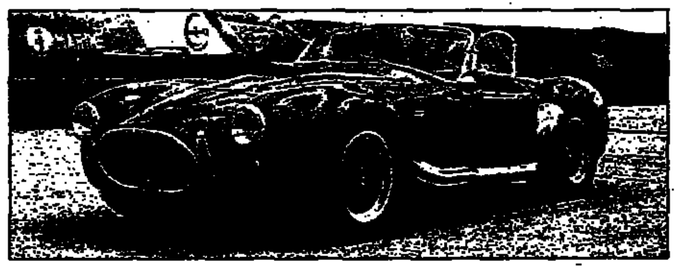
To do that would be a tragic finish to a project which has progressed from reactions of utter disbelief at the drawing board to genuine anticipation as the desert head-to-head looms.

"We got funding from BTR for the Jordan trip, but nevertheless I had to take £24,000 VAT money to pay the bills," says Noble. "When we returned we calculated we needed to raise £616,000 in 60 days *to fund July, August and six weeks* in Black Rock. We reckoned we could raise 20 per cent through our *own trading activities and the rest* through sponsorship. So far the trading profit is ahead of target but *we've got just £183,000 corporate* cash in 35 days. That leaves us £333,000 to raise in 17 days. *Without it this could be Thrust's* last run."

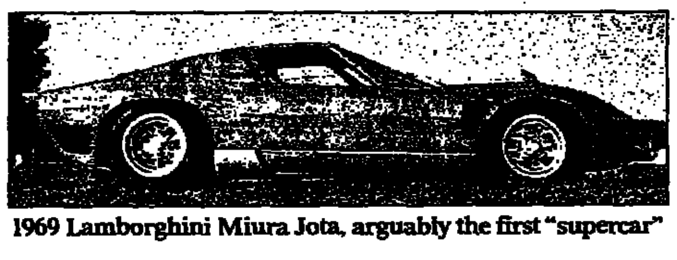
He estimates that another boost to trading through the Mach 1 Supporters' Club and the project's website, which recently celebrated its 10 millionth hit, will meet part of the shortfall, but that still leaves him a man with a fast financial mission. And he remains indomitably optimistic: "We're ready to fly to Reno on September 1, the Antonov Heavylift aircraft to take the car is booked and the desert is booked. We'll be there," he says.

Thrust on the Internet is: http//ThrustSSC.Digital.co.uk Info line is 0839-888-850.

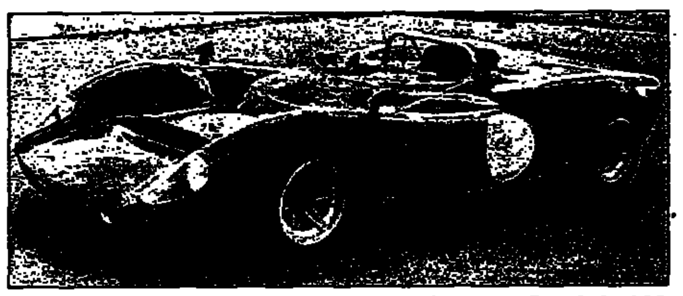
FOR SALE: GLAMOUR MOTORING FROM A LOST ERA OF THE PLAYBOY



1966 AC Cobra 427: estimated at auction, £97,500-£116,200



1969 Lamborghini Miura Jota, arguably the first "supercar"



1965 LolaT70 Spyder: estimated at auction, £153,500-£166,000

A collection of 28 cars normally seen alongside luxury yachts come down to earth in a Geneva sale room next month. They belong to Patrick and Gean-Claude Mimran, two Swiss brothers who saved Lamborghini from closure in 1980.

At the same time they built up an impressive collection of largely Italian motoring exotica, which was stored in a warehouse in the south of France.

But cars need to be used regularly. *The brothers sold the company* to Chrysler, who sold it on to Indonesian interests. Sotheby's will sell their collection at the Geneva Motor Museum on September 9. It is expected to make *more than £1.5 million.*

Martin Chisholm, head of Sotheby's car department, said: *"The cars represent a lost playboy* era of excitement, fun and hedonism. They represent some of the best supercars of the Sixties and Seventies."

Ferrucio Lamborghini mounted his luxury car challenge to Ferrari with the 350GT in 1964. But his company's international name was made with the Miura, arguably the first "supercar".

Its successor, the Countach, was also a sensation and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia bought one off the stand at the Paris motor show in 1975. But there are few buyers at that level and the feeling grew that the firm was producing cars that were too expensive for the market.

There is a 1969 Miura Jota in the auction, a splendid run of Ferraris and, closer to home, a 1958 AC Bristol, a couple of Aston Martins from 1958 and 1967 and an E-type Jaguar from 1974.

But the car market can be fickle, even for classic names and these examples have been priced to sell. The estimates have come down considerably since the firm issued its catalogue order form to enthusiasts a couple of months ago.

But Chisholm sensed an improvement in the market: "The enthusiasts are back but the investor is also starting to *return. He has been absent for the* past seven years but he is now coming back for high quality cars *that are also reasonably priced* and we think we have both in this sale."

● A 1938 BMW 327 sports tourer used by Joachim Von Ribbentrop, Hitler's ambassador in London and later German Foreign Minister, sold anonymously for £16,100 in a Brooks car auction at the Nurburgring in Germany. The sale made £1.4 million.

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RELAIS & CHATEAUX

A truly memorable feast for all of the senses

ITALY

Francis Bissell tries the varied and spectacular delights of Puglia

With its head in the snow-capped Alps and its toe almost touching Africa, Italy is many countries in one. Piedmont, Liguria and Emilia-Romagna were the places I knew best, and when I visited Puglia for the first time, I hardly knew where I was.

Its little whitewashed villages, hard on the eye in the midday sun, set against a turquoise Adriatic, could have been Greece. And, indeed, this was once part of Magna Graecia. An area of dense settlements, both inland and coastal, Puglia, and its capital, Bari, has always been an important agricultural, maritime and mercantile province, on the ancient trade routes from the East to Europe.

The landscape is dotted with fortified farmhouses, or *masserie*. You might wonder why a farmhouse should be fortified, but this is an ancient area of settlement prone to attack by the Saracens in the Middle Ages.

Il Melograno is one such *masseria*, just a few kilometres inland from Monopoli, and not far from Ostuni to the south and Polignano to the north. It is large enough in itself to resemble a small Greek village. Outhouses have been restored to provide delightfully secluded guest accommodation, so that you can have breakfast outside your own front door, under a gnarled and twisted olive tree.

The farmhouse is now a small, beautiful, luxurious hotel, where the Guerro family have made a determined effort to keep the style Pugliese. This extends to the cooking done by Maurice Barnaba, born in France to Pugliese parents, who have accompanied him "back home" to their retirement.

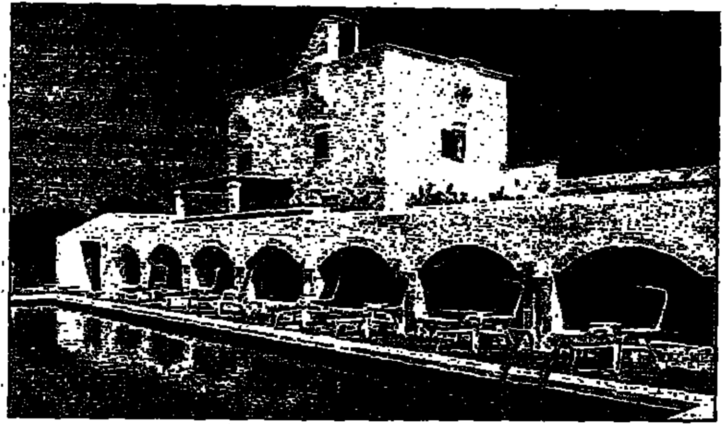
The beaches of the Adriatic are nearby; the hotel has its own private beach and a fitness centre. And there is much to see in the medieval coastal towns. Further inland is the *trulli* capital of the world, Alberobello, where there are more than a thousand of these small conical dwellings.

It is awfully tempting just to stay put and enjoy the lovely estate, with its pomegranate and almond trees, and the delightful citrus grove. And the food here is well worth investigating. The Pugliese diet is based on bread, pasta, vegetables, fish and shellfish — the ideal Mediterranean diet, in fact. It is accompanied by the peppery oils from ancient olive trees, and washed down with full-bodied red wines from the Salentino, and aromatic whites from Locorotondo.

The simplest cooking methods are employed. Fish will be grilled whole or, if filleted, the fillets will be wrapped in foil, or parchment parcels with little in the way of aromatics, perhaps just salt and pepper, a squeeze of lemon juice and a little olive oil, and it will then be baked. Much of the shellfish is served raw, and you might try a heap of sea urchins — a divine feast.

One of the most striking dishes was the mozzarella. Always made that day from fresh buffalo milk, it bore no resemblance to the variety found in the UK. Creamy, elastic and soft, it was always the first thing we ate with the lovely crusty bread. The meal might then move on to a range of *salume*, cured meats, and antipasto, preserved in oils and vinegars, such as tomatoes, small aubergines, anchovies, mushrooms, peppers and *lampascioni*, a bitter wild bulb highly prized in the region.

At Il Melograno the chef cooks a marvellous *orecchiette con braciole di vitellino, manzo e pollo* a steaming, hot, hearty rustic plateful of the local, ear-shaped pasta, meat rolls, and a deep, rich savoury sauce. It is as honest and authentic as his *purė di fave con cicoria*, a purée of white beans with bitter greens, served in two heaps in an earthenware bowl.


Il Melograno: swim or relax on a lounger by the poolside

Jean-Michel Bodinaud and his wife Luce have turned Château de Nieuil, a 16th-century hunting lodge, into the ultimate getaway

Tuck into the breakfast, and lunch be damned

IRELAND

Francis Bissell savours soda bread, fried bread, bacon, eggs and bangers

It's quite hard to see from the map just where Connemara begins, but you know when you get there. Beyond Galway, towards the western tip of the western Gaeltacht, or Irish-speaking area, the landscape becomes more open, punctuated by small hills and deep, peaty brown pools. Your eye catches the occasional slow movement of sheep ambling over the tussocks of coarse grass, or a brief flash of a hawk overhead.

We drove on the coast road from Galway, and it took forever, it seemed, to go only two inches on the map, round bays and loughs and over headlands. Tucked away deep in a sheltered bay, surrounded by a lush, almost tropical garden, we came upon Cashel House and the McEvilly family. The term "Irish hospitality" is almost tautology, but here it is to be found in abundance.

It was early afternoon when we arrived, and Kay McEvilly showed us to our room, knowing instinctively that we did not want a late lunch, and sent us a tray of afternoon tea. The room, with its large windows and green furnishings, was almost an extension of the garden, supremely comfortable and cosseting, and the ideal place to contemplate dinner.

Dining in Ireland is better than ever, and at Cashel House you will taste the most exquisite food imaginable; not fancy and sophisticated food, but dishes made from prime, fresh local and seasonal ingredients. The lobster is very fine indeed, as is the local crab.

Vegetables are full of flavour, and are shown to their best advantage in the one or two soups on the daily menu and the vegetarian dish, which might be a red onion tart with carrot sauce, or a savoury strudel with port wine sauce. Herb gardens are very much a feature of Irish country houses, and this is reflected in its cooking. The night we were there, Dermot McEvilly cooked a memorable celery and lovage soup for dinner. Sweet, fine-grained Connemara lamb is a real treat, as are the plump, briny oysters from Galway Bay and the locally caught salmon, which they smoke themselves.

Home-made soda bread is served at every meal, and is far better than biscuits with all the luscious, creamy Irish farmhouse cheeses now being made, each as individual as the people who make them: the Fergusons' Gubbeen, Jeffa Gill's Durrus, Jim and Breda Maher's Cooleeney and many more besides.

Desserts centre on home-made ice creams, tarts, cakes and seasonal fruit; one menu offers warm gooseberry tart, gratin of summer cherries or fresh strawberries or raspberries with cream.

Mixed drinks usually hold little appeal, but I found the thought of sipping a black velvet while reading the menu quite irresistible.

The only thing better would have been a glass of draught Guinness — and to drink Guinness in Ireland is definitely a three-star attraction. If as much care were taken with pouring wine as is taken over drawing a pint of draught Guinness, the Irish hospitality industry would, without a doubt, have the finest wine service in the world.

Breakfast at Cashel House is not to be missed: free-range eggs, mildly cured local bacon, heavenly black pudding and white pudding, a few grilled mushrooms and tomatoes for good measure, and some fried bread and sausage.

Tea is the perfect companion to this little lot. And there must be something about the water that makes tea in Ireland taste so good.

Leave room for soda bread, toast and home-made jams and marmalade. Don't even think about lunch.

Cashel House: in a sheltered bay, surrounded by a lush garden

Fairytale tour in the land of châteaux

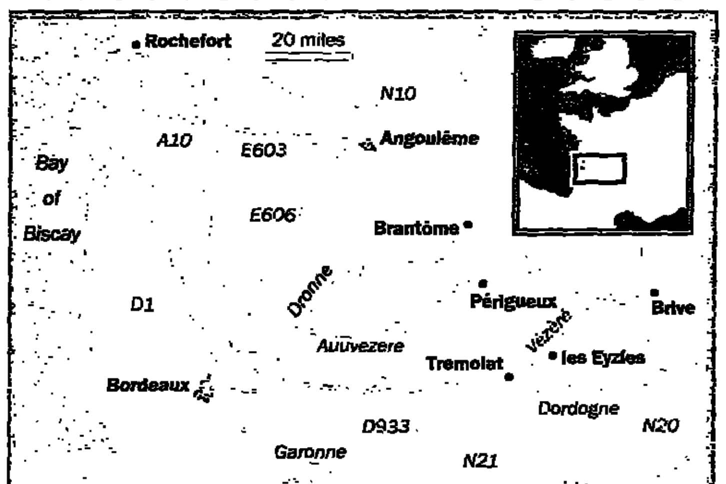
Morag Preston takes Eurostar and a hire car to sample the good life of rich food and fine wines in southwest France

We tore apart our first croissant on board Eurostar. We passed our first host of sunflowers heading northeast from Angoulême, and took our first sip of champagne in the late afternoon sun against the backdrop of a fairytale château.

Slipping elegantly into a lifestyle of canapes "*à la terrasse*" and wafer-thin petits fours "*dans le salon, s'il vous plait*", we toasted the week ahead. With ten francs to the pound, we had picked a perfect time to motor idly through the southwest of France, with my sister-in-law at the wheel of a hire car from Hertz. Wending our way between some of the most magnificent hotels in the world, our password was Relais & Châteaux.

Jean-Michel Bodinaud was smiling, arms outstretched to greet us, on the stone steps of his 16th-century hunting lodge. The turreted pile, reached by a long winding drive, originally belonged to his grandfather. Since then, the ebullient owner and his wife Luce, the masterful *chef de cuisine*, have turned Château de Nieuil into the ultimate luxury getaway. For the true escapists, there is even a moat and a well-worn helicopter pad in the 80-acre woodland surrounding the country retreat. "This is big, but this is not so big," exclaimed M Bodinaud, alluding to the fact that his impressive hotel has a homely appeal for the eclectic group of casually dressed families and glamorous young couples who congregate every summer at the château. Celebrity pop group *Blur* were among them recently.

Armed with a gourmand's picnic, adventurous guests can explore the surrounding countryside and small villages from one of the hotel's open-topped Jeeps. Tennis, swimming, a ten-acre pond for fishing, and an art gallery housed in converted stables, are all within a toss of a croissant from the family-owned castle. With birdsong as the only background noise, we watched green-fingered staff work unhurried in the Bodinaud's walled-vegetable garden, tending to the produce in the balmy heat. (The complimentary *fleur de courgette*, painstakingly stuffed with salmon mousse, rarely fails to raise a smile in the hotel's superb dining room.) We caught star-gazing strollers stealing midnight walks in the ornamental flower garden in front of the hotel.



En route to our next destination, we made a whirlwind tour of Château de La Rochefoucauld overlooking the Tardoire river. Heading south towards the bustling village of Brantôme, called the Venice of the Perigord because of its many canals, we arrived at Le Moulin de L'Abbaye with a thirst for afternoon tea. A 15th-century mill, a miller's house and a former abbot's residence, make up the exclusive hotel belonging to Regis Bulot, president of Relais & Châteaux. With pale-blue shutters and bubblegum-pink geraniums, the hotel is situated at one end of Brantome, stretching across both sides of a street. At a candlelit table, overlooking the River Dronne, it was a fantasy setting for the highly praised cuisine. Most memorable was the hotel's speciality scallop soup and my pudding of peaches in an electric-green syrup.

Le Vieux Logis, a 17th-century Carthusian monastery lying south of Périgueux, has the same rustic charm. But situated in the smaller village of Tremolat, it has a cosier feel. The fruit bowl in our room was stocked with apples and pears from the hotel's orchard. Sitting at our open bedroom window, eating freshly-baked bread daubed with *confiture*, it was easy to appreciate why Henry Miller had once spent a month here.

With a swimming pool in the French-style garden and bikes to tour the rural area, there is plenty one can do to work up an appetite before the delights of evening supper. The visitors' book is testimony to the attraction that Le Vieux Logis holds. One guest cycling through the Dordogne wrote: "We came on our way up, then decided to change our plans, and stayed again on the way back."

Places of interest along the route heading north to the village of Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, where cave dwellers lived during the Ice Age, are easy to find. Nestled in a hillside in the valley of Vezère, is le Gouffre de Proumeyssac. A tour of the "Crystal Cathedral" took us deep into the underground vault, packed with stalaglites and stalagmites.

Later we set off for Castel Novel, in the direction of Brive. On a hill, stretching out over 12 acres, the family run hotel is a former army barracks. Features for sporty types include tennis, cycling, a heated swimming pool, and an 18-hole golf course. Finding it hard to work up a hunger after our memorable lunch, we dined on melon and ham, home-smoked salmon, and a heavenly fruit salad. The rooms in the hotel are large and distinctive.

But the sheer shock value of being shown to a room at Saint James is hard to beat. Situated in a barn-like, rust-coloured building on a hill just outside the town of Bordeaux from where we started our return train journey home, it is a sanctuary of modern design. The hospital-white bedrooms are temples to minimalism. A CD player, television, and telephone were the only splash of colour in our triangular-shaped room. The blinds and lights operated electronically from the beds, all of which offered a wonderful view over the vines, the Garonne valley, and Bordeaux. Not to forget the rectangular jet-black pool.

Innovative masterchef Jean-Marie Amat moved his restaurant from Bordeaux to the enchanting village of Bouliac in 1981. Faithful food-lovers, including actress Beatrice Dalle, have since followed. We had the choice of eating at Le Bistroy or Café de L'Esperance, but plumped for the more formal dining room, which must be fantastic in the winter with its imposing fireplace. With 350 wines to choose from, it was once again left to the sommelier to select a delicious accompaniment to my roast lobster with potatoes and whole garlic cloves. Finishing with canneles of Bordeaux among the delicate petits fours, it was not so easy this time toasting the end of our gilt-edged adventure.

Symphony of silence in baroque style

Peter Brown catches strains of Mozart as he wends his way through the church-studded, car-free streets of the Czech Republic's capital

PRAGUE

We were about to enter St Nicholas's Church in Mala Strana, Prague's "Little Quarter", when a singer fired a round of staccato across the square. She was upstairs in a long neoclassical building, obviously practising for a concert.

"Mozart," said my wife. "Haydn," said I.

Beside the church door was a board advertising the many concerts taking place in Prague that night. My wife, of course, was right: the voice had come from the Liechtenstein Palace, where Mozart was on the bill.

That in itself was no surprise. Prague is full of palaces (there are four in the square alone), as well as glittering baroque churches, and host to countless concerts. But other cities have those, too. What Prague has, uniquely, is silence — the silence that Mozart must have known when, in 1787, he went to St Nicholas's to play the organ. It was the lack of traffic noise that allowed the soprano to surprise us.

Prague has one of the largest pedestrianised areas in Europe. It starts in the castle area, descends to the Little Quarter, extends over the impossibly romantic 14th-century Charles Bridge, and continues on the other side of the river through the winding lanes of the Old Town.

Here the main attraction is the town hall clock. It was rebuilt in 1490 by a clockmaker called Hanus, said to have been blinded by the burghers in case he re-created his masterpiece elsewhere. It is the kind of urban myth that Kafka, who haunted the square, would have enjoyed.

We joined the crowd in the sunshine as the clock chimed, and we admired the mechanical apostles as they rotated.

We called in at a delicatessen, where the counter assistants were taking pride in their new plastic gloves. One of the attractions of Prague is watching its slow embrace with capitalism.

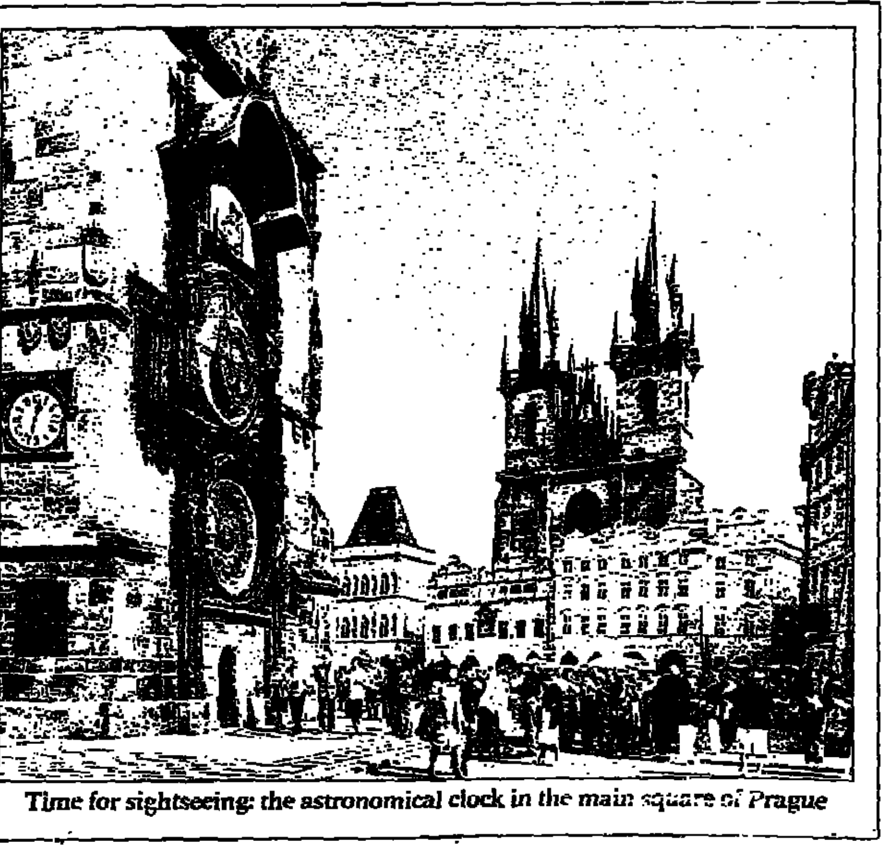
We were staying in the Hoffmeister, a four-star Relais & Châteaux hotel dedicated to the memory of Adolf Hoffmeister — globetrotter, bon viveur, artist and friend to the famous. Hundreds of his fine-lined portraits and caricatures lend an atmosphere of good humour to the hotel's corridors, dining room and bedrooms. They are also a reminder of Prague's wealth of Art Nouveau sculptures and buildings.

Adolf's son Martin, a film and theatre director, created the hotel and runs it. A genial, bearded figure, his sure hand is backed by the friendly efficiency of the staff. He talks eloquently about Prague's traditions — puppet theatre, for example — and its history.

Another passion is wine. The Prague Wine Society meets in the hotel every month "and we select the best", he says. A bottle of Moravian wine accompanied an excellent dinner. The violinist, Karel Szelmeczy, and the timbalist, Tibor Gunar, would have graced any concert in Prague.

Next morning, a five-minute walk brought us to the castle complex. Here, surmounting the city, are the castle, a cathedral, five palaces, two towers, a basilica, a monastery and, once again, no cars. You could spend days in this part of Prague alone, enjoying the shrine of St Wenceslas and the medieval paintings.

To those of us who grew up with the Iron Curtain, cities such as Prague can still seem remote. To visit them now is to realise what we were missing. Quite simply, Prague puts Europe into context.


Time for sightseeing: the astronomical clock in the main square of Prague

RELAIS & CHATEAUX

Sheen Falls Lodge, Ireland: there are eight fantastic Irish hotels all waiting to welcome you. Travel to the Emerald Isle where the pace of life is much slower, where people still have time to chat and where you can completely unwind

Travel in style and save pounds with big discounts

Cross the Channel for less than £10? It's true, and there are many other offers to take advantage of whether you are making your journey by road, rail or sea. Follow this guide to cut costs and boost your spending power

To make your stay at a Relais & Châteaux hotel even more enjoyable, substantial travel discounts have been organised in association with Leisure Direction. You can also use them to take advantage of *Le Lunch*.

Leisure Direction specialises in providing a travel service for hotel breaks abroad. It has compiled a range of offers tailored for *Times* readers. These include money-saving fares for the duration of the Relais & Châteaux offer from September 22 to April 9 next year.

Taking the car gives you maximum flexibility and we have a number of offers that will make your journey even more attractive. The voyage across the Channel has become part of the pleasure. Stena Line's super ferries are floating entertainment complexes with casinos and children's playgrounds. By hovercraft, the Dover-Calais route takes just 35 minutes and you are served drinks and snacks airline-style.

All the cross-Channel prices quoted are for a car and five people, which makes the lowest cost of the journey less than £10 per person. Leisure Direction can arrange a free upgrade to first class on Hoverspeed. It means you are given priority embarkation calls and priority loading and unloading of your car.

Head for Normandy or Brittany on Stena Line's Newhaven-Dieppe Sea Lynx, which takes just over two hours. There, Relais & Châteaux has 11 participating hotels. Or meander further, into the Loire valley, where there are seven.

Close to Calais is the blue-shuttered Château de Montreuil, set within the city walls, in a beautiful garden. For £140 for two, you can enjoy comfort and elegance as well as Christian Germain's perfectly prepared cuisine.

Further down the coast is La Ferm Saint-Siméon, a restored farm where you will discover an exceptional wine list. You can luxuriate in the spa or visit nearby Honfleur. Save more than £70 on the price of a room plus dinner for two.

Towards Caen is the Château d'Audrieu, a protected historical monument where owners Gérard and Irène Livry-Level will give you a warm welcome. Here your passport price for a night of gourmet luxury and dinner is £80 for two.

For a break of up to five days, you could use the Harwich-Hook of Holland route from £94 per car. In Holland there are four hotels participating in the Passsport to Europe promotion, including the Prinses Juliana. A Relais Gourmand establishment, it makes the best of bases for exploring the Roman catacombs at Valkenburg.

You could also travel to Ireland from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire from £154 by Stena Line ferry, or take a weekend return on the fastest craft, Stena Line High Speed Sea Service (HSS) for £174 per car. Both prices are for a car with five passengers.

In Ireland there are eight fantastic hotels all waiting to welcome you. On the farthest coast is Cashel House Hotel, Connemara. There you can enjoy long walks, go cycling, horseriding or fishing. Later, relax in front of a peat fire and dine on bounty from the sea. Enjoy an idyllic rendezvous and dinner for approximately £85 each.

To take a break at some of the participating Relais & Châteaux hotels in Slovenia, the Czech Republic or Norway, flying is the popular option. Leisure Direction can arrange flights to anywhere in Europe at the most competitive current prices.

In Germany there are 17 Relais & Châteaux to choose from. Fly to Berlin and in a quiet street near Tiergarten park, discover an expertly renovated turn of the century mansion, Hotel Brandenburger Hof. The winter garden is a pretty mix of an Italian abbey courtyard and a Japanese garden where you will enjoy the art exhibits and piano recitals. Two people can stay here and enjoy Euro-Asian cuisine for just £130.

In Italy, there are 15 hotels to tempt you and Leisure Direction can book flights to Rome, Florence or Naples at the lowest fares. In Florence Relais & Châteaux has the Hôtel Regency (right), where you will be delighted with the quiet, light and spacious rooms adorned with antique mirrors. Eat in the Relais le Jardin or the magnificent dining room. The price for your meal and an overnight stay is £187 for two.

Close to Rome, with a flower-bedecked patio, swimming pool and private beach, is Il Pellicano. Relax in comfortable, calm rooms, tucked away between pines and cypresses. The price for dinner, bed and breakfast for two is £194.

Fly to Paris and you are spoilt for choice for Relais & Châteaux hotels as well as restaurants where you can treat yourself to *Le Lunch*. Leisure Direction can secure you a good deal on Eurostar. For day trippers Leisure Direction will obtain the best return fare, currently £69.

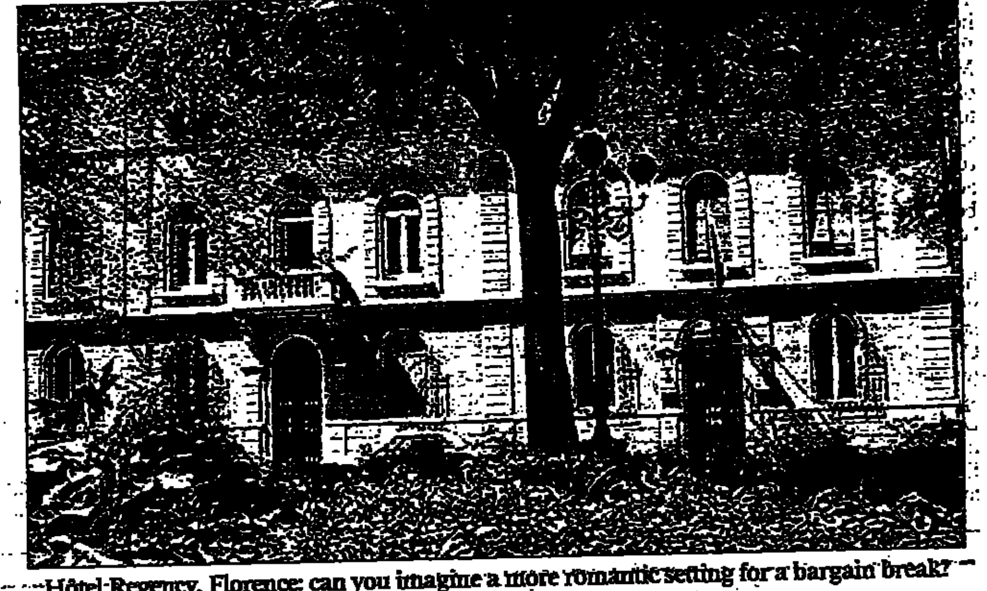
If you plan a longer stay, the standard fare is £169 but you will automatically be upgraded to first class with your Passport to Europe card. Normally the first class fare is £275, so you save £106.

There are eight splendid restaurants to choose from in Paris, all with two Michelin stars. Restaurant Faugeron, where Jean-Claude Jambon was voted the world's best sommelier in 1986, will present you with a great collection of French wines and brandies.

At Apicius the atmosphere is simple and charming, and Jean-Pierre Vigato's menu is a celebration of pure flavours. Or indulge yourself at Le Grand Véfour, a beacon of French gastronomy.

All the prices quoted are correct at the time of going to press, but may fluctuate and are subject to restricted space and availability. It is Leisure Direction's business to monitor the best value fares on a daily basis. So, if a new price emerges, you will be notified at the time you make your booking of the best fares available to suit your particular journey.

You are not obliged to collect any tokens, or apply for the Passport to Europe card to take advantage of these special travel deals. Leisure Direction has arranged a wide selection of special offers for *Times* readers with discounts on rail, cross-Channel and air travel. Many more special offer fares are just a phone call away.



Hôtel Regency, Florence: can you imagine a more romantic setting for a bargain break?

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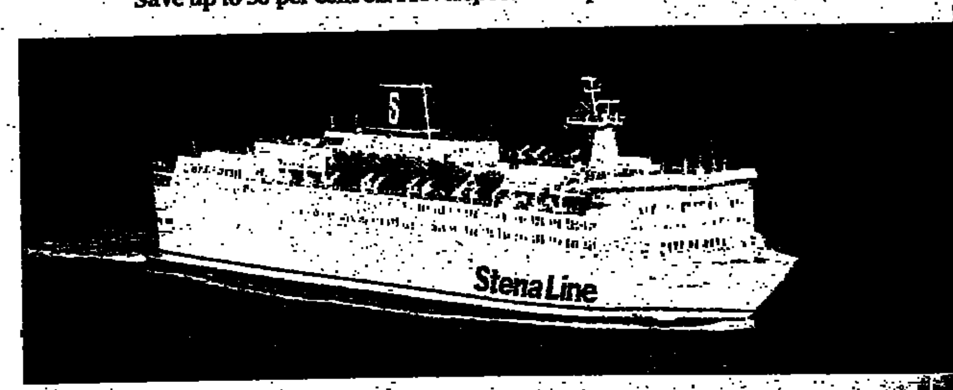


Simple steps to pleasure

Readers wishing to take advantage of this offer must have a *Times* Passport to Europe card and pack.

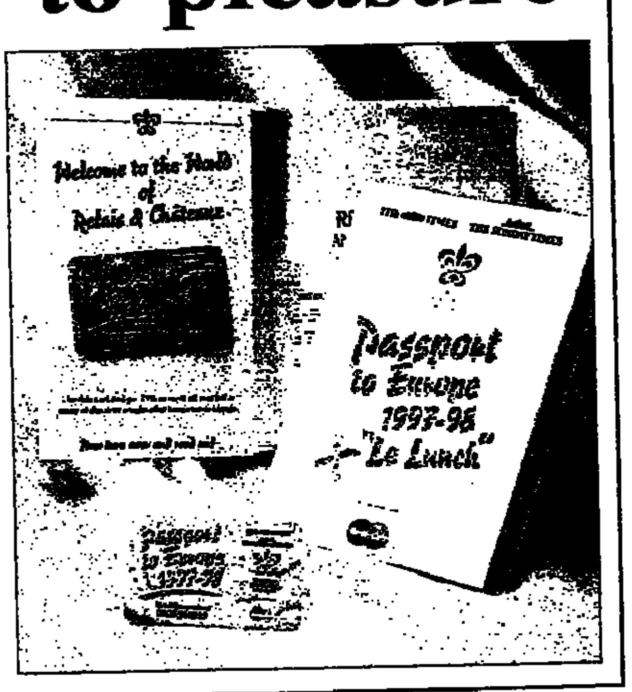
The pack contains the Relais & Châteaux 1997 International Guide, your Passport to Europe discount card, a concise and detailed listing of the 180 participating hotels, the 175 restaurants offering *Le Lunch*, a full list of travel offers and all terms and conditions.

The coupon below must be accompanied by four differently numbered tokens. The coupon and tokens must be cut from *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*. No photocopied coupons or tokens will be accepted. The offer is limited to one application per household. The offer is valid for unlimited stays at the 180 hotels from September 22, 1997 to April 9, 1998 and is strictly subject to availability.

All hotel bookings must be made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel(s), making reference to *The Times* Passport to Europe offer at the time of booking.

Reservations under the terms of this promotion are non-commissionable. The card must be presented to the hotel reception on arrival. All travel bookings must be made directly with Leisure Direction at least ten days before departure, making reference to *The Times* Passport to Europe offer at the time of booking.

All travel bookings are subject to availability and restricted to space.



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Passport to Europe 1997-98 "Le Lunch"

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هدية من الاعلام

The supermodels with straw between the ears

Sartorial scarecrows have been showing off celebrity clothes in aid of a good cause — and with not a tantrum in sight

On the Richter scale of the bizarre, Groombridge Place, near Royal Tunbridge Wells, manages a pretty hefty rumble. An outstanding example of Restoration architecture, once the venue for Sir Conan Doyle's seances and latterly the backdrop for Peter Greenaway's film *The Draughtsman's Contract*, it recently played host to a scarecrow festival.

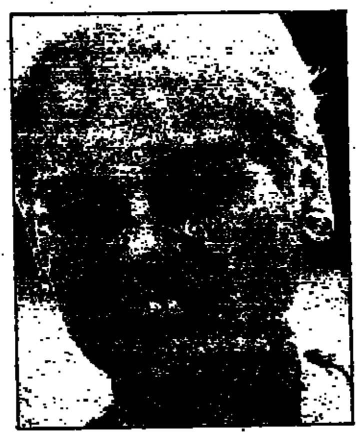
The highlight of the festival was an auction of showbusiness clothes in aid of Save the Children. However, there were no catwalks or popping flashguns here — all the designer rags were sported by a remarkably tantrum-free posse of straw supermodels.

Mick Jagger donated a jacket, Vivienne Westwood a dress, Mike Flowers a cravat, Tania Bryer a green suit, Peter Davison an entire outfit, and Marti Pellow from Wet Wet Wet gave a crushed red velvet suit that he had worn on *Top of the Pops* and a pair of blue velvet trousers with a ripped seat. Although each was modelled by a ravishing corn dolly, Mr Davison turned out to be the only one brave enough to agree to be photographed beside the prickly, slightly uneasy figures.

"This is the first time I've met a scarecrow face to face," he said, "being a town sort of person."

This kind of bizarre happening does not seem odd in the area around Kent and East Sussex. "Welcome to East Grinstead," reads the sign on the A22, underneath which one thoughtful local has scribbled "twinned with the Twilight Zone". As well as being home to some unusual cults (and the Alpine Hotel for Cats), there is Michael Hall School, probably one f the few buildings in the country o have been constructed without a ingle right angle, and a Tarmac oad which became the first to get cupuncture when the ley lines eneath it were deemed to be causing too much suffering".

Groombridge Place itself is a aven of the weird and magical, ith an astounding collection of range gardens, including the hime Garden, the Serpent's Lair with its giant, roof-tile snakes and iny hazel-branch cobwebs), the ost Valley of the Groms and the uly eerie Mystic Pool, part of the nchanted Forest in which lanterns, mirrors and glitterballs are said to conspire to capture part of each visitor's soul. There are also fields of blazing sunflowers (Pick Your Own), a restored Victorian kitchen garden, a gift shop, a Japanese garden, a vineyard and the wonderful Drunken Garden — so named because all the topiary around the carp pool appears to be staggering and stumbling.



Mick Jagger donated a jacket and Vivienne Westwood a dress

The sight of a crowd of scarecrows in this setting seems anything but incongruous — even if they include a strapping great straw Chippendale, a hippy scarecrow, a Sloane Ranger version (complete with Harvey Nichols bag and a copy of *Country Life*), one made of papier-mâché, another clad in a diving suit and a Freddie Mercury lookalike. Ivan Hicks is Groombridge's resident land artist and designer of many of the estate's imaginative gardens. Hicks is fascinated with *objets trouvés* and peppers his gardens with tin chests, dressing mirrors, rotary saw blades and deer skulls.

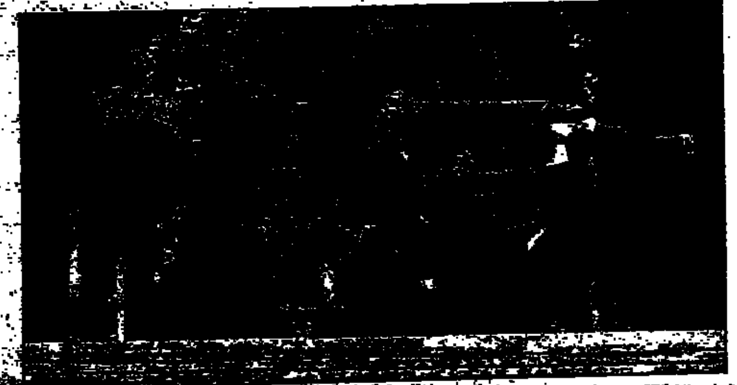
The same technique informed his two contributions to the Scarecrow Festival: Terri Cotta, a lady made from terracotta flowerpots, and a 12ft Rastafarian scarecrow made from sunflowers, a bicycle wheel, fish net, a skylight from a portable loo, two poles and a windbreak.

"I prefer to work like that," says Mr Hicks, "because it actually gives you parameters. With the Rastafarian, I put the big sunflowers in for eyes, and one of them went a bit crooked, and suddenly he just looked stoned. Wonderful.

"As for Terri Cotta, she has a strawberry pot for the head, which was a brilliant find because you can see faces in the holes. I was going to give her ivy for hair, but I thought, no, with all these holes she's already four-faced. And, of course, she's an airhead."

Local sculptor Anthony Paul Smitherman, famous for his native American-inspired work, built a 22ft high scarecrow entirely of straw and hessian as the festival's frontispiece. Sadly, it died in a *Wicker Man*-type death before the festivities began. "It was a light-hearted piece, most enjoyable," he says. "But it was also very flammable, and was razed to the ground one night mid-festival, presumably by drunkards."

The idea for a Scarecrow Festival came from Emma Piette, Groombridge's events supremo. "I was brought up on a farm," she explains, "and scarecrows are lovely characters in the countryside, so I thought, why not do a festival?"



On the catwalk: the scarecrow models at Groombridge Place

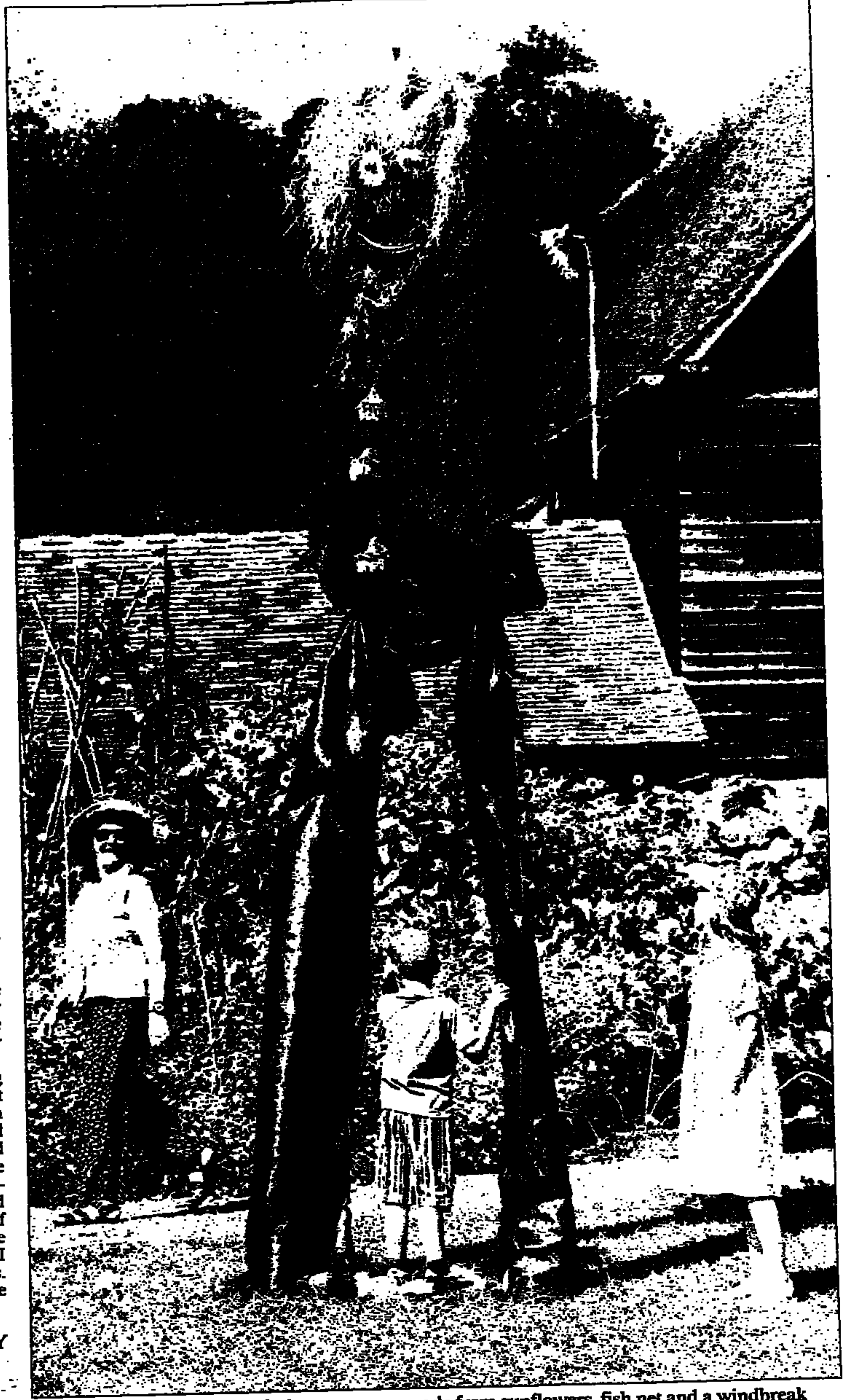
Raising money for charity also appealed to her, although the amounts raised at the auction were nothing like they imagined: Tania Bryer's suit was sold for £40, a £50 phone bid was taken for Vivienne Westwood's dress and Mike Flowers's cravat went for £25. Marti Pellow's suit and Mick Jagger's jacket raised slightly more: the former went for £70 and the latter for £200 to Mark Powell, who made it in the first place and sold it for £500.

"I didn't expect to buy anything at all," Powell says later. "I'm not even a Rolling Stones fan, I'm a Beatles fan. But Beatles stuff is sold for fortunes, so it's got to be a good investment. I'll just wrap it in tissue and mothballs and put it away — unless somebody phones me and offers me an incredible amount of money for it. Then I must be tempted. I only bought it because I thought it was cheap." He grins. "Perhaps I should have left the Mars bar wrapper in the pocket."

JASON HAZELEY

● *Groombridge Place gardens, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent (01892 863999), are open daily from 10am till dusk: adults £5, children £3.50*

ADRIAN SHERRATT



High life: the 12ft Rastafarian scarecrow made from sunflowers, fish net and a windbreak

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"It seems awfully quiet, suddenly. On my hands and knees in the flowerbed, I find myself chatting to the contents of my borders"

Free at last. Now, where was I?

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

Linda, our wonder-nanny, is still away — taking a well-earned break from domesticating Alexander, so he has gone off for a further week in the country. I am hoping that all this bucolic exposure will eradicate a few of his more shocking urban-child affectations — his habit of referring to any large expanse of land as a park, for example; also his deep distrust of animals. Offered a ride on a very small pony with the action and temperament of a wheelchair, he declined with alarm: "Actually, I think it's a bit too dangerous."

I, meanwhile, finding myself suddenly free of all responsibilities, save that of earning a living, have a rare opportunity to revert for a few days to being the nippy girl I once was, before being overtaken by the the strange, ruminative, slow-moving world of motherhood. Good gracious. I could take myself off and see a film, or an actual prom played by a real orchestra, instead of the tinned version on Radio 3. I could (I think, rather wildly) go out dancing, having first removed from my handbag the wodge of tissues, packet of Mr Bump plasters, juice-in-box, copy of *Postman Pat's Difficult Day* and scale model of a John Deere tractor from which I am never normally parted. I suppose I might even consider Going On A Date, now that a couple of years have, if not precisely erased, at least to some extent dimmed the shaming memory of the last one.

It was a very grown-up affair, that last date. Great squashy red plush seats at the theatre, and dinner afterwards with two sorts of wine and lots of different knives and forks, and then a lift home in a large car with air conditioning like a rushing mighty wind. What with one thing and another, I had really begun to feel quite like my real self again, and not just the appendage known as Alexander's Mummy. Even the details of the tricky potty-training endgame in which Linda and I were obsessively engaged had as good as faded from my mind.

Until, "Well," said the Date, eventually, rising to leave, "We must do this again very soon." "Ooh, yes, that would be lovely," said I, keenly. And then, in my best child-quelling voice, "Now then, it's a very long drive home, so I think that, before you get into the motor car, you'd better go and do a wee-wee, don't you . . ." Oh crikey. Even now it makes me go goose-pimples all over just thinking about it.

On second thoughts, it may be wisest to leave it for another decade or so before making a further attempt at the dating game. I resolve to give the house a really good going over and hold an elegant little dinner party instead. I make a list: "Hoover bags, mackerel, gooseberries, clot crm", and drive up to Blackheath, where I have a long discussion with the fishmonger, for once unpunctuated by cries of "Darling, *please* don't do that!", about the virtues of Heads On versus Heads Off. I wander up and down the high street, looking in the shops, where I find a pretty little amethyst brooch and a copy of Nicholas Mosley's *Life of Ramond Raynes*, which I have been after for ages. No one says Boring Bookshop, Boring Jewellery Shop. Why can't we go to the toyshop now? This is bliss, I think.

Back home, I drift out into the garden with a glass of wine and water the plants. Then I remember that I did exactly the same thing last night. Probably I have now overwatered them and they will all die. Perhaps I will do some weeding instead. It seems awfully quiet, suddenly. On my hands and knees in the flowerbed, I find myself chatting to the contents of my borders. "Hallo," I say, to something small and green. "Are you a little weed or a little flower?"

"First sign of madness," says my next-door-neighbour, Violet ("I'm 84 and all me own teeth"), popping her head over the trellis and then nipping back indoors, cackling and rattling her jewellery, before I can think of anything sensible to say in reply.

Violet is right, of course. With all this unaccustomed time on my hands, I have been having a really good worry about what strikes me as my rapidly advancing senility. I mean, I am barely dabbling my toes in the shallows of middle age, but already the signs of decrepitude have set in.

For a start, I can't hear anything. Meals with my parents are like a scene from Kingsley Amis's *Ending Up*, with the three of us (they can't hear either) all going "Eh?" "Speak UP!" "Don't *gabble*" and so on. And Alexander is clearly getting awfully tired of a conversation we seem to have at least once a week, which goes:

Alexander: ". . ." (Indistinct mumble at my waist level)

Me: (Bending double) "What, darling?"

A: (Indistinctly) "Pardon."

Me: (Exasperated) "What? Oh *DO* speak up!"

A: (Loudly) "I said PARDON. Linda says it's *very rude* to say What."

Then there is the memory loss. Before we went on holiday, I stowed various little objects that I am fond of — the ivory glove-stretchers, the little blue vase with cherubs on it — in a safe hiding place. So safe that, now we are back, I cannot recall where it was. In the vast tracts of silent time that seem to have opened up in the mornings before I go to work, I roam the house distractedly, searching for something. Perhaps it is my blue vase with the cherubs on it. Or perhaps it is simply that, with no one here to boss about, I don't quite know what I am for any more.

JEREMY YOUNG

Scottish dancing is a serious business and newcomers should not make the mistake of thinking of it as a free expression of the soul. Like all tribal mating rituals, dances have complicated steps and nobody will sympathise if you get them wrong

Make the fling go with a swing

There's an art to being a guest at a Scottish house party, as a *Times* Focus Group discovered. Do, say or wear the wrong thing and you may not be invited back. **Charlotte Eager**, reports

The midges of Scotland are *sharpening their proboscises* in readiness for the army of unprotected flesh about to descend on their mountain homelands. As happens every August, the British upper middle classes are packing their Volvos *and heading north.*

"So by the M40 and the M6 and the A74 they shall go, via the M8 and on to the A9," lilts the non-traditional ballad.

The Scottish house party, so integral in literature, from Trollope and Mitford *to the detective stories* of Ngaio Marsh (unity of cast, of place, of time, remote location and enough inter-guest irritation/local feuds to make murder a credible outcome) is here. In the coming few weeks the Scots and their guests *will pack in the social life the rest of* the country ekes out over an entire year. But these gatherings are as full of pitfalls for the unwary — in custom, dress and differences of language — as a boat trip up the Yangtse river.

Recognisable by their plumage — mainly dun-coloured tweeds — the old Scottish hands who annually migrate are well aware of a fact that should soon be confirmed when the results of the September 11 devolution referendum are published that Scotland is a *foreign* country and they do things differently there. One husband described it as "like being married to a Tibetan". If you *went to Tibet, you could take* an interpreter and guide books to tell you what to wear, what to bring, what to say. Scotland, just because it is joined to England by land, is bereft of these useful publications. So *The Times*, in the way that New *Labour has made Focus Groups in* vogue, brought together some veterans in a house party for the Glorious Twelfth to remove some of the hazards awaiting the first-time Highlander.

People you consider the essence *of urban sophistication will meta*morphose on the A9, like Kafka's cockroach, into Scots. There is no point in trying to fight the transformation: resistance is useless and will only end in misery, agreed the Focus Group. You must alter your *expectations and embrace the dif*ferences. Only then, what could be compared to Basic Training at Sandhurst will be fun.

Metamorphose too. Hurl yourself into freezing lochs, jeering at the Mediterranean tans hyperventilating *on the heather.*

"Bring your own Alka-Seltzer," was a piece of advice that every Focus Group member wrote in *their questionaire,* "and midge repellent" (this year's top tip is that Clarins makes a combination anti-midge and suncream); "lots of cigarettes" (the nearest shop may be tens of miles away and the midges drive to chain-smoking the *most dilettante of social smokers)*; "wads of cash" (you'll need fivers to tip the dailies). As a present, bring good cheese: only orange Scottish Cheddar is available north of the Highland Line. "Always help with the clearing up," added an older *Focus Group member with feeling:* however grand the house may look, you can guarantee your hostess will spend a lot of time up to her elbows in the washing-up. "Never, ever, park behind your host's Land-Rover," said a member with once-flattened car.

Bloody Marys in hand, the Focus Group went round the room, as though at an Alcoholics Anony*mous meeting, relating their most* embarrassing experience. One, mistaking his reclusive host, his new girlfriend's father, for a guest, asked if he was staying too. The relationship didn't last. Another had reversed over the day's bag, *reducing to pâté the few grouse* which had been shot. (It's been a bad year for the grouse ever since anyone can remember.)

I once got food poisoning and spent the whole of the Oban Ball *throwing up in the lava*tory, but I was too embarrassed to complain to my hostess. As a result, she thought I was drunk and never asked me back.

Never make the mistake, as I once did, of getting a lift in an Argo-*cat (a kind of Action Man accessory* which looks like an eight-wheeled rubber dinghy) without wearing a bra. There is no suspension and *moors are very bumpy.*

Boss furiously those unfortunates who don't know how to reel, and don't make the mistake of thinking dancing should be a free expression of the soul. Like all tribal mating rituals, Scottish *dances have extremely complicated* steps and nobody will sympathise if you get them wrong. Revise *The Swinging Sporran* — bible of the reeling classes — in snatched moments in the bath. And always grab the first bath when you get *back to the house: the further north,* the ropier the hot water supply.

Be warned, some male Focus Groups members find shooting very erotic. Sex and death, they point out, have always been linked.

But the most important tip the *Focus Group* agreed on was that you need to take an inordinate number of clothes. Scottish house parties divide into shooting and *dancing, both with rigid uniforms.* My indispensible luggage fills up the back of a Ford Fiesta. The climate will change from bucketing rain to burning heat and you must be prepared for every eventuality.

The uniform list is as elaborate *as for school: the layers of jerseys,* like for skiing, you need to peel off should it get hot, should all be dun-coloured, otherwise you'll scare the grouse. You need indoor and outdoor shoes, walking boots, gumboots, trainers and evening shoes *(that's one suitcase full already),* but not strappy little stilettos, because Scottish dancing requires a lot more than a little sexy swaying: your shoes have to combine elegance with the kind of practicality which would allow you to challenge *Linford Christie in a 100-yard dash.*

Manolo Blahnik, agreed the Focus group, should make shoes for reeling with steel toecaps (protection from kilted stompers) and rubber soles (braking).

The Northern Meeting in Inverness, the Oban and Skye balls, started two centuries ago for local gentry to find suitable mates, are *still going strong. My sister met her* husband at the Northern Meeting and consolidated their courtship on Skye. Focus Group women agreed on three vital points. Firstly, make sure your dress stays up; secondly, that it reaches the ground — your *hostess will staple strips of sheets* round your hem to cover your offending ankles, detracting from the glamour of your frock; thirdly, the man exuding breath-taking sex appeal in his kilt is still the same pimply youth you met at breakfast.

*But don't despair if you've al*ready packed only PVC trousers and a mini-dress. The Focus Group (dressed in hand-me-downs) has noticed that British Airways is losing everybody's luggage this year. If hit by a clothing crisis, just tell your hostess your bags have gone astray. You will get endless sympathy and probably invited to borrow her tweeds.

The final tip the Focus Group all agreed on is: if in doubt, ask; don't bluff. Even the frostiest dowager *will melt if applied to as an expert,* and this will help you avoid the worst house-party crime of all: to Do Something So Terrible that you are Never Asked Again.

The camaraderie created by beating the elements have turned the Scottish House Party *into* one of the best forms of fun.

Ruth Gledhill hears a plea by City businessmen and women for a Nigerian pastor threatened with deportation

The family who live with fear

TO GIVE spiritual encouragement to those left to keep the City of London markets turning while colleagues disappear to sunspots around the world, a group of leading businessman has taken over the Tuesday lunchtime ministry of St Helen's Bishopsgate while the rector, Prebendary Dick Lucas, takes a well-earned break.

Beginning the series, which continues for another two weeks, was Mike Farmer, the managing director of the Metal and Commodity Company. But before the service began, a separate group from St Helen's launched a campaign in an attempt to save a former church caretaker from deportation.

The story of Frank Omoregie, his wife Juliet and their two British-born children, *aged six and three,* was complex and seemingly hopeless. He and his wife arrived in Britain in early 1989 on visitor visas, at the invitation of Christ Gospel Church in Brixton, south London. A few weeks later, Omoregie's father and brother were murdered in Nigeria, thought to be as a result of Omoregie's outspoken criticism of an allegedly satanic cult. He applied for asylum here. This was rejected and he and his family now live in fear of being detained for deportation at any moment.

After the campaign launch, dozens more young, smart-suited busi*nessmen and women filed into the* church for the 40-minute weekday service. It opened with prayers for Mr Omoregie, who is now a pastor in Brixton.

Seeking asylum: Frank Omoregie

Mr Farmer did not refer to the family's plight in his address. His topic was "Motivation for serving: why should we care?" He described how difficult it was to keep focused *on this motive when surrounded by* the demands of job security, profit and loss, and other features of City life. "How often in the past year has a meeting or telephone call kept us from being here on Tuesday lunchtimes?" he asked.

At this point, my mobile phone went off. It was the newsdesk demanding my return. The Archbishop of Canterbury had just said *that if the Prince of Wales remarried* the Church would be plunged into crisis. Should I leave or hear Mr Farmer out. I waited for guidance. The Ten Commandments were of little help. Still I waited. Then it came. "Do not let Satan, father of lies, prince of this world, prince of this city, fool you that work, money, job security, this meeting or that telephone call are more important," *Mr Farmer said. I resolved to stay,* praying that Mr Farmer would pay my mortgage if this cost me my job. But, time had run out, the service was over. I sprinted back to Wapping — to find almost the entire newsdesk out to lunch.

● *St Helen's Bishopsgate, London EC3A 6AT (0171-283 2231).*

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RECTOR: Preb. Dick Lucas

ARCHITECTURE: Parts date from 13th century. Restored after IRA bombings in 1992 and 1993. ★★★★★

LITURGY: Prayers, reading, no hymns. ★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Skyscraperish. ★★★

WE RECEIVED *thousands of* entries to *The Times*/Cherry Coke Surfing competition (August 2) to win a limited-edition hand-crafted surfboard worth £1,500, made by the master surfboard-craftsman Simon Leddy. The answer to the question "Who were the two male stars of the film *Point Break*" was Patrick Swayze and Keanu Reeves. And the first correct answer came from David Beggs, of Knutsford, Cheshire. Mr Beggs, all whose family are surfers, will receive his prize next week.

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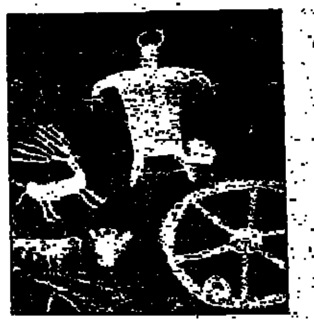


A wander in a forest frozen in time

New Mexico · 20

THE TIMES travel

The hidden face of Jerez

Spain · 19

JANE SPENCER

Troupes of Creole dancers and cocktails greet tourists at Sugar Beach resort

Even after a good lunch the Duchess never did this

Ride a flying banana, walk underwater or simply eat and drink like the Yorks on their honeymoon — you can do it all on Mauritius

They're a funny lot, the Royal Family. When the Duke and Duchess of York stayed in Mauritius during their honeymoon in 1986 they were given sole use of a tiny private island just off the coast. They holed up in their beach villa for a week with the curtains drawn, watching Arnold Schwarzenegger videos, playing a board game called Royal Trivia and ordering steak sandwiches from room service.

The jetskis and sailing boats at their disposal sat askew on the sand and they'll never know what they missed — unless they read this, of course. To be fair, the Duke and Duchess were not put into the care of the formidable Sally Curtis, a kind of Joan Hunter Dunn in overdrive who was determined that none of the island's pleasures should escape us. Not only did we go water skiing and riding, get pulled on an inflatable banana behind a speedboat and go walking on the ocean bed wearing glass helmets, but we still found time to eat and drink like royalty should.

On arriving at the Sugar Beach Resort, cocktails appeared, the band struck up and beautiful Creole dancers waved their skirts about in a kind of Indian Ocean cancan. The Sugar Beach is a picture: pastel-coloured villas set around the main plantation-style house, a pool like the blue lagoon and the sea 20ft from your back door. The villas are on a generous scale, two vast beds, cavernous bathrooms — even the soap was like a little rugby ball. Sarongs and T-shirts are provided free for all guests, a brilliant idea since it means you can hit the beach without unpacking.

Later we repaired to the terrace to eat Creole-style chicken and drink glorious South African wines. The hotel was full but quiet. The few little herberts I had seen were obviously being entertained somewhere discreet.

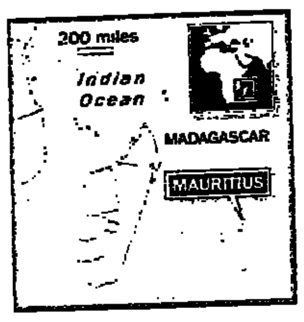
Hotel managers always want to tell you about their famous guests. The Duke of Edinburgh, it transpired, had stayed next door at La Pirogue, a pretty hotel with thatched chalets. He took his own large wicker hamper filled with bottles of Scotch, gin and brandy. When hotel staff asked his valet why he had done so, the valet said: "In case his plane comes down in the desert." Perhaps he is not such a bad old cove after all. Gary Lineker is also a Mauritius fan, apparently, and so is Paul Gascoigne (but they asked me not to mention that).

After lunch Sally frog-marched us off to see the tennis courts (seven), hairdressing salon and massage parlour, the scuba diving centre, the crèche (one small herbert) and the gym (gratifyingly empty). Most Sugar Beach clients seemed content to lie on their sun loungers and flop into the shallow end like well-fed otters when the heat became too much. Good for them, I say. The only signs of real activity were the man with the refrigerated drinks trolley and the Cape sparrows which hopped along in his wake picking up dropped peanuts.

Splendid though it is, it would be a shame for Sugar Beach to seduce you away entirely from the cultural patchwork that is Mauritius. British, French, Creole, Indian and Chinese live here in harmony but they are probably too full of good food and drink for it to be otherwise.

Mauritius is the size of Surrey and a dot in the Indian Ocean. It is volcanic, but not actively, and the mountains sit rather oddly among flat fields of sugar cane dotted with volcanic boulders. Its highlands are home to spectacular birds and wildlife but not, unfortunately, the indigenous dodo which was hunted to extinction by early settlers.

From a hilltop fortress we looked down on Port Louis, the capital, a scruffy city of concrete blocks interspersed with churches, mosques, ornate temples and the arena where the Pope addressed the faithful when he came here. Twenty per cent of the population lives in Port Louis and they all seemed to be in the market at the same time. This vibrant but malodorous place looked like a tribute to salmonella. There were flies on the fruit and the meat looked terrifying



but the cooks in our group said the spices were good value. We liked the herbalist's stall and its signs — *Hemoroide, Aphrodisiaque, Goutte Militaire*. A man in our party was offered a cure for impotence ("You boil it for 12 minutes," the herbalist said bafflingly). Our man blushed furiously while we hooted with laughter and promised not to tell a soul if he gave us £50 each.

We saw hardly any other tourists in Port Louis. Most seem content to stay in their hotels. The ones we saw were extraordinarily opulent. The Saint Geran was aristocratic, the Coco Beach all quirk and colour like a child's drawing, and in Le Touessrok you could almost smell the banknotes — hardly surprising since a leading member of the Russian mafia was renting the honeymoon suite.

Sally had been trying to persuade us that walking on the ocean bed was an experience not to be missed and after a vast lunch and several bottles of wine we agreed. On the way, someone told a story of pearl fishermen of old who were at the end of airlines on the sea bed when a storm broke out. The crew of the ship cut the lines and left them to a watery death. We all went a bit quiet after that but Sally told him firmly to stop being silly.

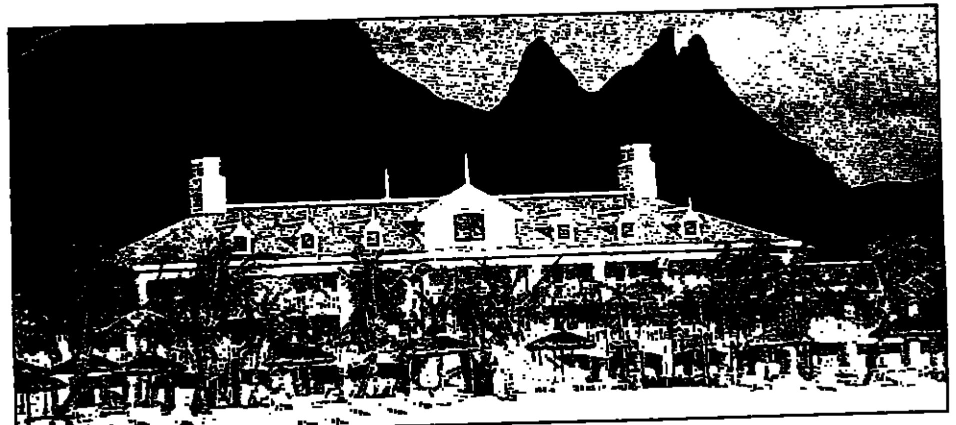
It is very simple: you put on a weight belt and a glass helmet with a tube leading from it and pad about like underwater astronauts while fish come along to have a good look at you and nibble bread from your fingers. And all for £20. Marvellous.

That evening we had dinner under the stars at Sugar Beach while a beautiful girl sang a convincing impersonation of Whitney Houston — Mauritians make very good music. Afterwards Sally was still fizzing like a crate of pop and persuaded us to go next door to the casino at La Pirogue where we lost all our money.

On our last day we had an incredible lunch on the thatched dining terrace at the Saint Géran — heart of palm salad, pan-fried fish and strawberry baskets. Afterwards I thought I might have a little snooze under a palm tree but the one-woman heatwave had other ideas. Five of us were ordered to the beach for a trip on the flying banana, a long inflatable thing with six seats on top, attached to a speedboat. It was great fun, although what the sunbathers thought of this motley crew does not bear thinking about.

Before we could get our breath back we found ourselves at the Coco Beach riding school, hats squashed on our heads, legs being put into boots like children being dressed for school and horses trotted out according to our capabilities. They took one look at my Thelwell technique and switched me to a nice little dobbin. My chums got enormous great beasts and did not bat an eyelid. They cantered off into the surf at full tilt while I lolloped along in their wake like a bag of laundry, thinking that perhaps the Duchess of York had had the right idea after all.

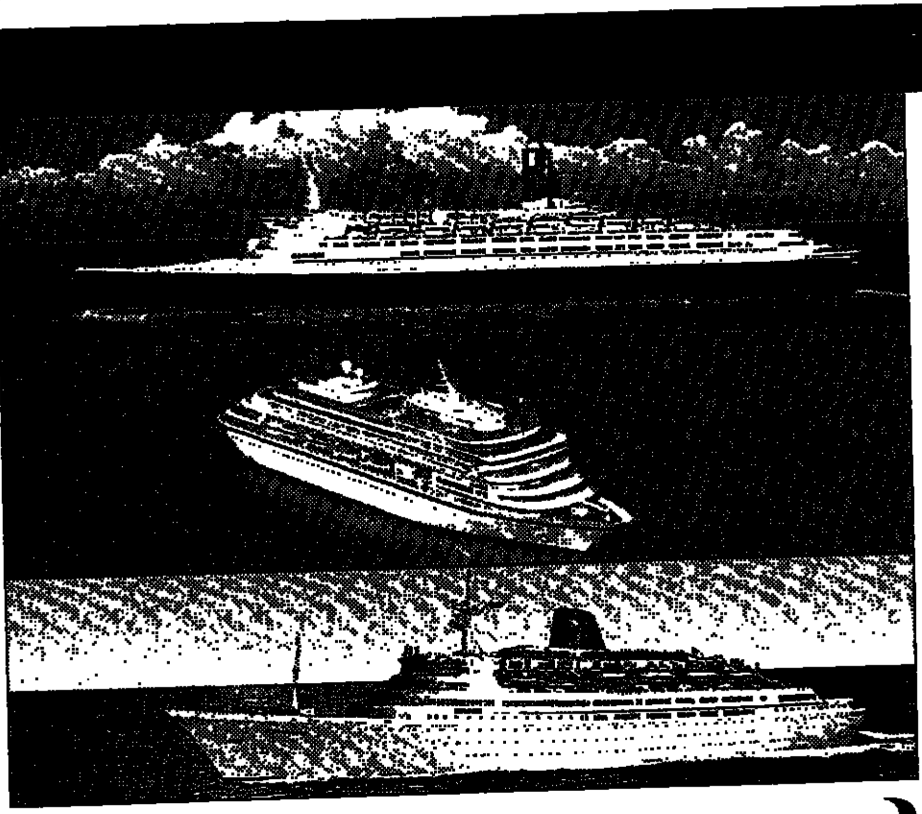
MARY GOLD



The Sugar Beach resort is designed in the style of a sugar plantation house

FACT FILE

- **Air Mauritius** (0171-434 4375) offers flights from Heathrow or Manchester to Mauritius from £635.
- **Sunset Travel** (0171-498 9922) offers seven nights half board at Sugar Beach with flights from £1,200 per person. Kuoni (01306 743000) has a similar package from £1,348.
- **The Travel Bookshop** (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Culture Shock! Mauritius*, by Roseline NgCheong-Lum (Kuperard, £7.95). *Bradt Guide, Mauritius* (£11.95).
- **Orders for the Royal Trivia board game can be placed on 0831 348258.**



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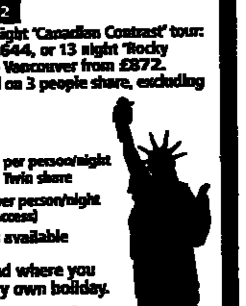

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هكذا من الاصل

Norfolk: While Walsingham welcomes thousands of worshippers, other towns snooze in idyllic anonymity

Pilgrims celebrate rebirth of the shrines

ASSIGNMENTS

One of the pilgrims, with a prayer/hymn card and rosary, who this week walked barefoot along the holy mile from the Slipper Chapel to Walsingham Abbey to celebrate the refounding of the shrine

On Wednesday, in a small Norfolk village, Cardinal Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland, will launch a year of celebrations to commemorate an event that took place 100 years ago this week: the first modern pilgrimage to Walsingham, when 50 Catholic pilgrims arrived on the 12.08 train from King's Lynn. They may not have known it at the time, but those pilgrims were the start of something big. A century on, Walsingham is again a centre of pilgrimage, with Anglican and Catholic shrines attracting half a million visitors a year.

It all began in 1061, when the lady of the manor, Richeldis de Favarches, had a vision of Our Lady in which she was led to Nazareth to see the "Holy House", where the Angel Gabriel had appeared. Mary commanded Richeldis to build a replica in Walsingham, and the simple wooden house soon became a place of pilgrimage.

Augustinian and Franciscan monasteries grew up around the site; their remains can still be seen.

By the Middle Ages Walsingham had become the most important Marian shrine in Christendom.

Henry III made the pilgrimage at least 11 times and gave an annual offering of 40 shillings to the monks. Monarchs up to and including Henry VIII would arrive on horseback, leave their shoes at the 14th-century Slipper Chapel, and walk the final "holy mile" into Walsingham barefoot.

It was Henry VIII, however, who was responsible for Walsingham's decline, when he dissolved the monasteries and had the sub-prior of the abbey hanged. The Holy House was destroyed in 1538 and the Slipper Chapel became a barn. Henry relented on his deathbed, bequeathing his soul to Our Lady of Walsingham, but the damage had been done.

More than 300 years after the Reformation, the idea of pilgrimage was reborn and the first organised group arrived on August 20, 1897. Each of the original pilgrims was granted an Indulgence of 40 days by the Bishop of Northampton. Others quickly followed. By the 1930s the restored Slipper Chapel had become the national Catholic shrine, and Anglicans — inspired by the Catholic revival of the Oxford Movement — had joined in with a shrine of their own. The Holy House was recreated, this time in brick and stone, and a church built to house it, close to the ruined priory.

Pilgrims carry a statue of the Virgin and Child

When I visited recently I began, as all pilgrims should, with a visit to the Slipper Chapel, then, keeping my shoes firmly on, I continued into Walsingham by car. The houses along the high street are built in a mixture of timber, brick and flint in an architectural medley from medieval to Georgian, and typical of this part of north Norfolk. The shops sell rosaries and candles. In the old railway station above the village is a Russian Orthodox chapel, with icons painted by the resident priests.

Slowly I made my way to the Anglican shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Inside the door of the church, banks of wooden prayer boards gave thanks to Mary — "for healing from smoking", "for success in exams", "for obtaining a job".

This was the sort of Protestantism that would give Ian Paisley a fit. There were miracles attributed to holy water from the church; there were prayers for newborn children (I noticed one for a girl named Richeldis) and a sad RIP for a mother and daughter, who had both died young a few years apart. At the heart of the church, the dark brick of the Holy House was illuminated by dozens of candles: each one signifying a prayer. Prayers are said here at six o'clock each evening for all who have visited or sent requests. Standing alone in the candlelight before the image of the Virgin it is difficult to be unmoved, whatever your faith.

A few minutes away, in another church, is a miracle of a different kind. The parish church of St Mary and All the Saints was almost totally destroyed by a fire in 1961. But the interior of the 14th-century shell has been rebuilt with brilliantly whitewashed walls and new "Gothic" arches. The effect is magnificent, but was spoilt for me by the stern notices warning visitors of hidden security cameras and the propaganda against women priests displayed around the church. I walked off my anger in the Abbey Gardens straddling the River Sriffkey beside the site of Richeldis's original shrine.

The pilgrim season at Walsingham runs from Easter to November; there is scarcely a day in summer when the village is not crowded with coach parties.

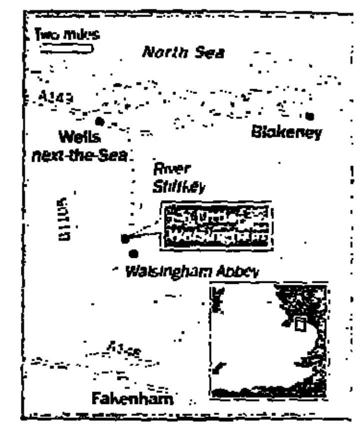
The centenary year will see more visitors than ever, as the Catholic Pilgrim Bureau lays on a year-long festival of music and drama, beginning on September 12 with a concert of Marian music and ending a year later with a performance by the Westminster Cathedral Choir.

The Anglican national pilgrimage takes place over the 1998 Spring Bank Holiday on May 25. But, though the different churches organise their own events, Walsingham is an ecumenical place, where every pilgrimage features people of all faiths, and none.

My favourite time to visit Walsingham is in winter, when the pilgrims have departed, the souvenir shops are closed and the chapels become places of solitude. As winter turns to spring, the Abbey Gardens are carpeted with snowdrops and this celebration of new life, appearing like magic on the site of Richeldis's shrine, adds an extra dimension to the visit.

Go this week to share in the centenary celebrations; but if you really want to appreciate Walsingham, go back alone in the winter months and let it speak to you in the silence.

TONY KELLY

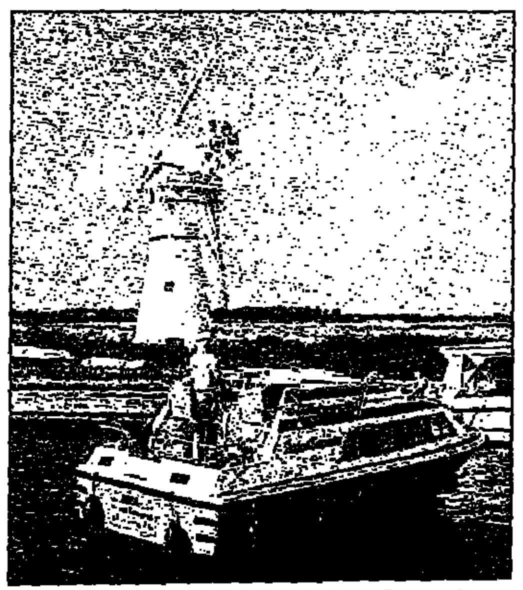


FACT FILE

- **Getting there:** Walsingham is on the B1105 between Fakenham and Wells-next-the-Sea. From Easter to September a narrow-gauge railway runs several times a day between Walsingham and Wells (information on 01328 856506).
- **Accommodation:** The Old Bakehouse, High Street (01328 820454): double B&B, £37-£43. The Black Lion, Friday Market (01328 820235): double B&B, £40-£50. Pilgrim accommodation is available through the Catholic Pilgrim Bureau (01328 820217) and the Anglican Shrine Office (01328 820255).
- **Where to eat:** The Old Bakehouse (see above): dinner only, about £25. Swallows Restaurant, 15 High Street (01328 820555), offers home-made lunches from £3.95.
- **Guided walks:** These take place every Wednesday and Thursday until the end of September, leaving from the Shirehall Museum on Common Place at 11am and lasting about two hours. £3.75, children aged eight-16 £2. Information on 01328 820250.
- **Centenary events:** The centenary begins on August 20 with Mass at the Slipper Chapel at 12 noon, a procession to the Abbey Gardens and an evening party at the Catholic shrine. The festival of music and drama begins on September 12. Centenary programme available from the Catholic Pilgrim Bureau (01328 820217).
- **Tourist Information Centre**, Shirehall Museum, Common Place (01328 820510).

Places you shouldn't know about

Very flat? Norfolk? Well, that was how Noël Coward famously rubbished the county, and all who honeymoon in her, in *Private Lives* — and the Master's glib gibe has become enshrined in British folklore and regarded as a fair summary of an entire region. But you know what? Nobody who knows and loves England's serene easterly prow will mind the taunt one little bit. If metropolitan sophisticates want to plonk their chintzy second homes in the Cotswolds, and leave Norfolk's meandering lanes, the horizon-filling plains of wheat and lavender, the pebble-walled villages and the lazy rivers in the sort of tranquillity that was last disturbed by marauding Danes in the early 11th century, that's fine with us. And if holidaymakers seeking a slice of Britain's coast persist in heading for crowded Devon or drizzly North Wales, that's OK, too. Norfolk's jolly little ports, its clean and sandy beaches, its lovingly restored Victorian piers and saltily authentic jellied-eel stalls, its haunting sea marshes and fabulous array of majestic medieval churches — all this can remain the secret of initiates who are perfectly content to let the world go on believing that Norfolk is flat, dull and devoid of all distinguishing features.


Norfolk lovers want to keep it to themselves

Of course, parts of Norfolk are distressingly well known to the world at large. The Broads, on a summer Sunday afternoon when the abrasive whine of the ubiquitous cabin cruiser and the churning wash of the pleasure steamer seem to disturb even the most remote backwater, have all the soothing calm of the M25 in the rush hour. Similarly, all roads leading to Sandringham are customarily clogged with royal groupies. And Norwich, for all its architectural splendours, bustling marketplace and teeming pub life, is a beautiful city terminally in thrall to the motorcar. But these are mere pockets of irritation in a county that is otherwise blissfully free of urban stress and strain. Thanks, no doubt, to its comparative remoteness from large conurbations (central London is a good three-hour drive from most of the county), Norfolk has largely been left cocooned in an overwhelmingly agricultural way of life. Its landscape has thus been spared both the commuter-town sprawl and the second-home blight, the creeping sicknesses of the late 20th century that have all but devoured vast swaths of formerly rural Sussex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire and neighbouring Suffolk. Most important of all, it can boast 40 or 50 towns or villages that each has a distinctive character, unlike anywhere else and unlike each other. It is this jaunty and surprising variety that is such a perennial tonic to the jaded spirit.

If I want Georgian elegance and a damn good dinner, I go to Holt, with its high street of splendidly old-fashioned little shops. For bracing walks across the most richly endowed birdwatchers' paradise in Britain, head for Blakeney, or for the great shingle bank at Cley — seven miles long, with seals watching your progress from 20 yards off shore.

For picture-postcard charm, the secret hamlet of Heydon is the place. For stately halls and vast, rolling estates, explore Mannington, Holkham or Blickling. For beautifully carved furniture, any one of a dozen superb craftsmen in the Saxthorpe and Aylsham area. For eccentricity, look in at the Fakenham Museum of Gas History, or the extraordinary Thursford Steam Engine Collection . . .

I could fill this entire newspaper with examples of Norfolk's quiet charms, but self-interest dictates that I fall silent. The last thing that Norfolk-lovers want is to encourage thousands of day trippers to pour in each weekend. Norfolk is a place whose glories only reveal themselves gradually, mysteriously, elusively. But once you are hooked, it never lets you go. The rural spirit of England is alive and well here.

And, by the way, Mr Coward, it is not flat. Some of my favourite hills and dales nestle deep in the heart of Norfolk. But I'm damned if I'm telling anybody where they are.

RICHARD MORRISON

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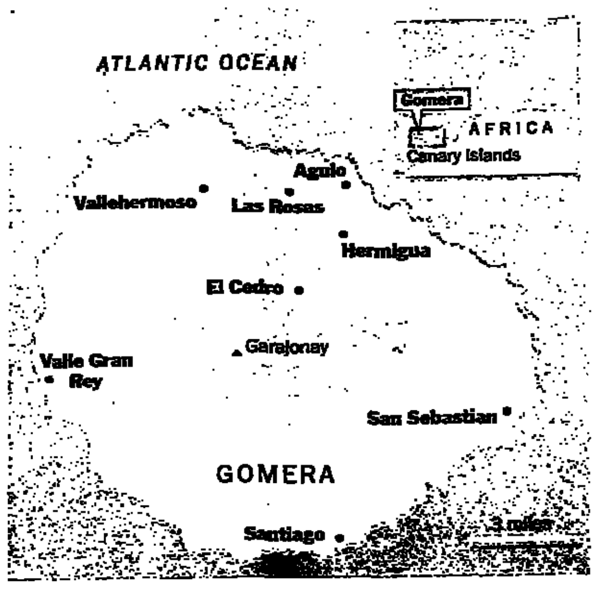
Spain: The lovelorn Christopher Columbus left his heart in the tiny island of Gomera, so they say …

Need a snifter? Just give a little whistle



The first sight of Gomera was of a tiny *black island the shape* of an upturned saucer but as we got nearer it emerged as a surprisingly green and hilly place.

Gomera, one of the smallest and least known of the Canary islands, an hour west by ferry from the port of Los Cristianos on its big sister island of Tenerife, is about the size of the Isle of Wight but the comparison ends there. Wight's highest hill pokes up a *couple of hundred* feet, Gomera's main peak soars nearly 4,000ft. It has vast valleys, rich with vegetation like a Caribbean island, great outcrops of bare rock that remind you of Arizona, and one of Europe's last areas of laurel woodland. A place of breathtaking beauty.

Various circumstances have, so far, stopped Gomera from being developed for mass tourism. Its handful of beaches are small and covered with black sand. A *shortage of fresh water and local* planning rules have curtailed new building. There are few big hotels and even fewer with their own swimming pool. For about 30 years German tourists have been coming to Valle Gran Rey on the west coast but over-development now makes it a place to avoid.

Before heading into the valleys, the *charming little capital of* San Sebastian is worth exploring. It is a town with a bustling main square and plenty of bars and restaurants. But its main claim to fame is as a favourite stopping-off place of Christopher Columbus, who had a house here, Casa de Colon, which is now a small museum, and worshipped at the beautifully preserved church of Nuestra de la Ascuncion.

Columbus also enjoyed many dalliances with local women, including a heart-breaking one with the widow Beatriz de Bobadillo, who eventually married the local governor. A miffed Columbus, it is said, exacted his revenge on Europe by discovering America.

Gomera is small enough to walk around in a week, and a good starting point is the visitor's centre in the hills above the village of Agulo on the northeast coast. The centre gives a good feel for the island. Its gardens contain more indigenous species than in *Britain* and Germany put together.

From the centre it takes about an hour or so to walk past giant aloes and prickly pear cacti to the head of the valley, which overlooks to the town of Vallehermoso. This is a spectacular view which improves the further you head into the valley. My first impression was the sheer lushness of the valley but soon each direction *provided different views.*

Behind was green woodland of the Garajonay National Park, the only one on the island. Around the isolated hamlet of El Tion were the typical, well-kept farmland terraces usually planted with bananas or orange tress.

The way down to Vallehermoso was by a steep, twisting track followed by a long, gentle walk past palm trees and more terraces into the town.

It is in the town that the Gomeran art of whistling — *sibol* — is being revived. Legend has it that the original inhabitants, *Les Guanches*, had their tongues cut out by the Conquistadores and so developed a whistling language, using their fingers to produce different sounds, to communicate. The language was taken up by farmers and shepherds to send messages across valleys for up to two miles. Now the *Silbadores* demonstrate their skills by sending complicated messages, such as "fetch a gin and tonic for the lady in the blue dress", to impressed tourists.

San Sebastian, the island's capital

From Vallehermoso there is a long but rewarding walk to the village of Las Hayas, which takes in much of the best of the island. The walk takes you past the large Encantadora reservoir and the *delightful villages of Banda de* Las Rosas and Los Loros, blooming with summer flowers, and up into some high meadows.

From here, a long, hard ascent to the national park is crowned by one of the most stunning views on the island. From about 4,000ft you can look down the V-shaped valley beyond Vallehermoso to the sea. Each side of the valley is green with vegetation. You have to remember you are on a small European island and not in the verdant Caribbean.

The eight-day holiday itinerary I took provides for a rest day but this is a chance to take a walk through the laurel woods of the national park. This type of woodland once covered much of Europe but was destroyed in the Ice Age. The few acres left on Gomera are among the largest areas remaining in Europe.

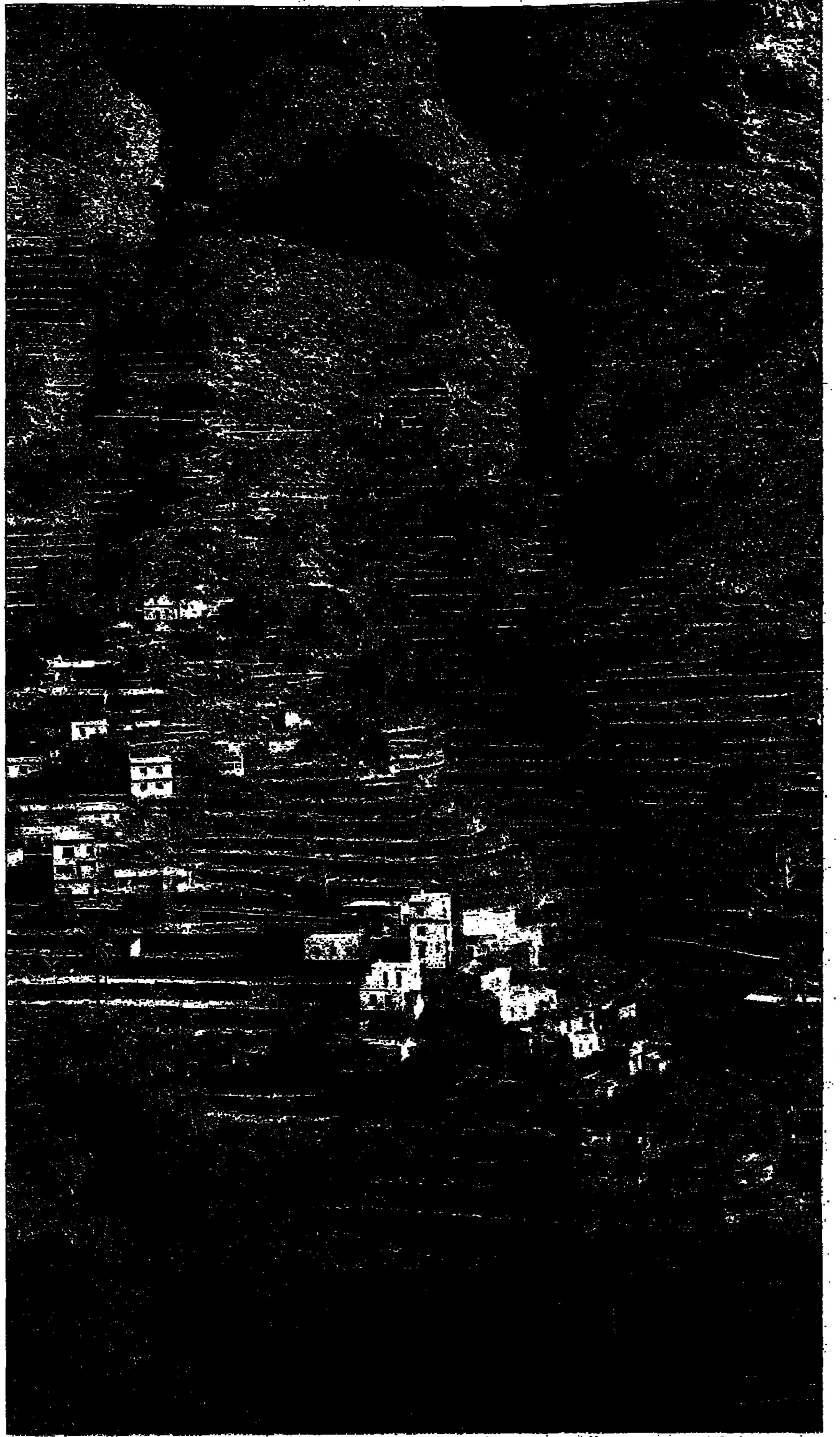
However, it is the last day that provides the most enjoyable walk. From the lively fishing resort of Santiago, you can take a taxi to the peaceful village of Pastrana, where the road ends. You can then enjoy a walk up the Santiago Valley without seeing another person all day. The track *runs along the valley with the island's* biggest bare rock, the 3,500ft Roque Agando, looming before you.

Too soon the walk is over and you are back on the Tarmac, faced with a choice: you can carry on trekking to San Sebastian or "cheat" by walking two miles along the road to the nearest bar and ordering a taxi.

The Bar Peraza is perched on the edge of a ravine with intoxicating views down the valley. As you sip your cold beer, it is worth remembering the story of the man after whom the bar is named. Señor Peraza was sent by the Spanish to govern the island but infuriated locals by continually seducing their maidens. After an affair with one particularly young *victim, the Gomerans* decided enough was enough and threw Peraza over the ravine to his death. But, as the locals say, he would have enjoyed some stunning views on the way down.

STANLEY SLAUGHTER

PICTURES


Pretty houses climb the terraced hillside of Valle Gran Rey, but elsewhere in the village there is tourist over-development

GOMERA FACT FILE

■ The author travelled with Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717), which offers an eight-day tour from £741 (£801 with escort), including flights, B&B (with the last night in the five-star national parador in San Sebastian) and most evening meals and lunches. The price does not include taxi fares or the ferry or hydrofoil service, about £6, from Los Cristianos on Tenerife to San Sebastian. For unescorted tours, visitors are provided with a map of Gomera and detailed directions.

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Alternative Gomera*, by Nicholas Albery (Institute for Social Inventions, £6.50). *Landscapes of South Tenerife and La Gomera* by Noel Rochford (Sunflower Books £9.99).

■ Spanish Tourist Office in London, 0171-499 0901.

Answers from page 23

SLUB
(b) A yarn containing thickened parts, or slubs, at intervals. A *fabric* woven from such a yarn. Also, attributively, having an irregular effect given by a warp of uneven thickness.

TORRY
(a) To provoke and fight (a bull). From the Spanish *torear*, to fight (a bull), to be a *bullfighter*. Roy Campbell, *Mithraic Emblems*, 1936: "The white Torero — him who took the toss/ Sky-high upon the black horns of the Cross,/ For torrying the hornèd prince of Death."

URSCHLEIM
(b) In early biology, the original form of life, protoplasm. From the German from Ur (in the Chaldees, a symbol of great antiquity) and slime.

SNOEK
(c) The snake mackerel, *Thyrsites atun*, of the family Gempylidae, a large marine food fish found in large shoals in colder parts of Southern Hemisphere oceans.

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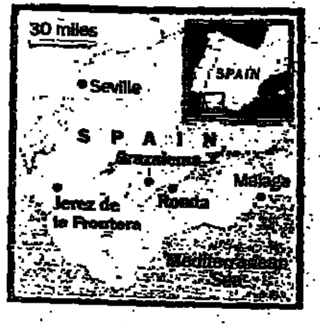
هكذا امن الاهل

… and **Leslie Thomas** discovers the romance of a green silence on the Route del Toro in Andalusia

The magic of horses, bulls and sherry



WORLD PICTURES

At the Jerez horse fair, the locals turn out — glass of sherry in hand — for one of Andalusia's most spectacular events. In the fields, men on horseback — just like cowboys except that they wear flat caps — tend the bulls

The rain in Spain falls mainly on the small *red-roofed town of* Grazalema. Built into a crevice between the Sierra Marguarita and the Sierra *Ubrique* in Andalusia, it receives an average 2,200 litres of rain per square metre in a year (in 1963 it had 4,385 litres) but despite this, probably because of it, visitors still search it out. *They go for the* tranquillity of the mountains, to walk, to climb, to fish, and to enjoy the rain.

We reached Grazalema almost at the end of an oval journey through Andalusia. Sometimes it rained, but there was sunshine too. There were *springtime* eagles in the hills. Along the coast it was *stormy* and the road to Cadiz was as crammed and contrary as ever, the trucks and machinery working to complete the *dual carriageway to Valderama* in time for golf's Ryder Cup next month, sending up clouds of red dust even through the thickening drizzle. *Gibraltar from the back* is by no means as imperious as its frontal elevation — like a cloaked figure slinking away from the weather.

But, *short of* Algeciras, my wife *Diana pointed out* a sign: *Jerez de la Frontera.* Gladly I turned off and within a mile we were in another land. The road rolled west through easy hills, the traffic had suddenly vanished and I was *driving* through a green silence. Fields so lush that you might have been in Ireland, rivers and lakes, outcrops of carved rock, and an occasional white house as a milestone.

The Spanish call this the *Route del Toro*, and in the meadows beside the road lounged the long-haired bulls *of the region, red and moody*, rounded up by leathery-skinned men on horseback — just like cowboys except that they wore flat caps. There were fields of horses, too, standing casually and elegantly below trees out of the growing sun.

For more than 120 kilometres the road goes *through little but countryside*; villagers are concealed in the hills, houses stand aloof and there *is* the occasional church, perched like an overseer on a rock. After a winter of rain the rivers and lakes were full.

The first landfall, as it were, was the outskirts of Jerez de la *Frontera*. It looked as *though* the promise was not to be fulfilled — gritty industrial streets, a railway, petrol stations and dusty trees. But there was no need to worry. Soon we found ourselves in a place of squares and fountains, old stucco houses and *iron* balconies carved and curved. There were storks on the tall chimney of the Sandeman sherry premises.

Jerez is sherry. Half a dozen *famous names spelled out* on the old walls of the city tell an old — and very English — story: Domeque, a family so numerous that it would take a book to list the names, *Byass,* Gonzales. *Harvey, Sandeman.* The amber palamino grape, grown in the surrounding chalk country, treated and coaxed in oaken cases, provides *the unique* taste, the sunny colour. The town is full of cellars piled with old and rather gloomy barrels, every corner has its bodega where they will gladly pour you a clear fino, an oloroso, or a rich amontillado.

The city was bigger than we had expected, crossed with cobbled streets overhung with windows and tight with shadows. We could *not* find the hotel until a housewife cheerily offered to direct us if we would take her and her shopping home. We gladly agreed.

She insisted, like most of the inhabitants, that the city be called by its full name, Jerez de la Frontera. There are other places in the region with the *same appendage. The frontier* in question is not that with Portugal, still beyond the province of Huelva, but the historic front line where in the 8th century *the Spanish held the invading Moors* (for a while).

In the evening it rained and we were caught between the tables and the casks of a bodega with animated *Spanish families, including an array* of babies. Three glasses of fino and I thought it was time to find a restaurant. They called a taxi and everyone cheered *us on our way*. The driver took us to a place run by his brother. It was a local sort of café with a bar and a few tables, one of which was occupied by children in football kit *but watching a bullfight on television.* We had Andalusian soup, which is mostly floating beans, and some excellent baked ham. The brother's taxi turned up *on cue to take us to the hotel.*

Jerez is also for its flamenco and for splendid horses. There is a monument to the horse in the Plaza des Caballo and *there is the Royal Andalusia* School of Equestrian Art. On Thursdays it has a performance, but any other day you can go into the magnificent round-windowed hippodrome *to see the horses and riders* rehearsing. Spanish music fills the fine interior. The splendid greys went through their ballet, their syncopated *trotting, while we sat with a* school of delightful infants who arrived roped together so no one was lost.

In the afternoon we set out *on the return journey*, re-entering the hills, casual at first but beyond Arcos becoming taller and closer. The land was flower-patterned pasture *and trees hanging thickly over rivers. Swallows darted among* olive groves, there were a few silent houses and the road remained all but empty.

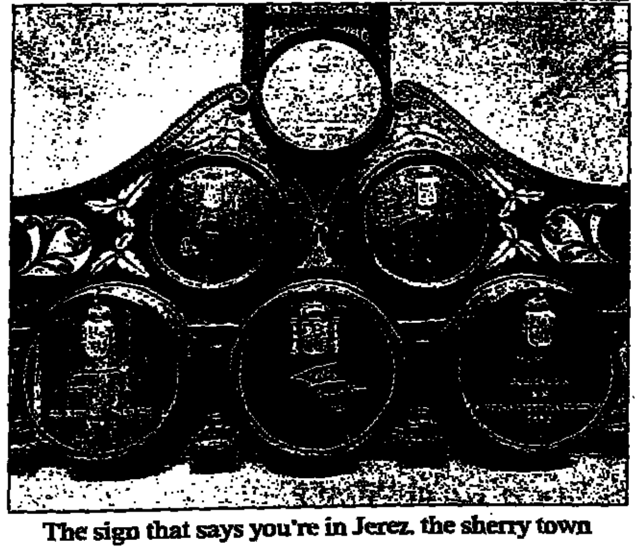
Behind the dappled foreground more serious mountains rose like a stone wall. Soon we were among them, the road coiling upwards until we *reached Grazalema. On* cue it began to rain.

The town has been likened to a colony of merlins' nests clinging to the cliffs, but it is *well-ordered for all that.* The bending streets are narrow and neat, the gardens obviously well-nourished, and flowers drip from iron balustrades and balconies. Red tiles weave *up and down with the levels of the streets.* Two church towers stand out firmly.

We did not see a soul until we were on the rising *road on our way out.* Then *there were six* women in three separate sets of two, as though they had been talking and had just parted. They wore heavy black skirts with shawls on their heads and shoulders. One was *much younger than the others, only in her twenties,* although her clothes were the same.

I stopped the car and asked them the way to Ronda. There is only one road but I thought I might engage them in conversation. The *younger one* pointed over the *mountain* and then they continued on their separate ways, doubtless wondering about a driver who did not have the wit to see the road in front of his nose.

PICTURES


The sign that says you're in Jerez, the sherry town

GRAZALEMA FACT FILE

- The author flew with Palmair (01202 299299) from Bournemouth to Malaga, £149 return. Sunday flights until *October 19, then Saturday through the winter. Prices range* from £99-£209.
- Car hire: Hertz (0990 996699) has a week's car hire from Malaga from £132.
- Accommodation: The Hotel Guadalete in Jerez (00 34 556 182288) has double rooms from £60 a night.
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Spanish Journeys*, by Adam Hopkins (Penguin, £8.99). *Between Hopes & Memories*, by Michael Jacobs (Picador, £8.99). *Lazy Days out in Andalucia* (Cadogan, £5.99). *Andaulcia* (*Rough Guide*, £9.99).

Grazalema: well-ordered

A Winter's Weekend in ST PETERSBURG

St Petersburg, without doubt the most beautiful of all Russian cities, is an ideal city for a weekend visit. Although most prospective travellers would normally contemplate a visit during the summer months, we believe that St Petersburg is even more attractive during the winter. *Cold it may be, but who could ever forget seeing the magical aristocratic* palaces under a mantle of freshly fallen snow. Added to this, the city is relatively free of tourists, leaving such gems as the Hermitage Museum and the country estates which surround St Petersburg free of the high season crowds.

During the winter months the cultural life *of St Petersburg is at its peak.* Music and *dance will be at their best,* whether your interest lies in ballet or opera the Kirov company will offer something to entrance you. It is also an excellent time for concerts and theatre and during the course of your visit there will be much on offer.

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The Peterhof has been selected in preference to other hotels as currently the choice is somewhat limited. True there are some splendid deluxe hotels in the city, but these are essentially catering for the *expense-account businessman. The daily* rates are very high, as are the costs of meals and other hotel services. The alternative is to stay in one of the former state-run hotels which do not suite everyone and are best suited to travellers *on a* limited budget.

The *Peterhof* is a most *agreeable* alternative

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offering a first class service, good food, comfortable accommodation and a welcoming and secure environment. All the cabins offer two lower beds and have a private shower and toilet. The public areas are *spacious with lounges, bars and two dining* rooms. Mainly used by businessmen during the week, we have been able to obtain attractive special rates for our weekend visits which combined with a low season scheduled air fare makes for exceptionally low *prices for a trip of such* quality.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London (Gatwick) St Petersburg. Mid-morning departure with British *Airways* (flying time is 4 *hours*). *Arrive in the afternoon* and *drive to the Peterhof* for a 3 night stay.
Day 2 St Petersburg. Morning city tour. Afternoon free.
Day 3 St Petersburg. There are many optional city excursions available including the Hermitage Museum, as well as trips out to the country estates Prices range from £10 to £25 and are bookable on board. It is also possible to book tickets on board for concerts, opera, ballet and circus (subject to availability).
Day 4 St Petersburg to London (Gatwick). Day free for individual exploration or further optional excursions until late afternoon flight to London. Arrive early morning.

DEPARTURE DATES
7, 14, 21, 28 November 1997
5, 12, 19 December 1997
16, 23, 30 January 1998
6, 13, 20, 27 February 1998
6, 13, 20 March 1998

PRICES PER PERSON

Twin bedded cabin	£489
Single cabin supplement (*small cabin*)	£59
Supplement for sole occupancy of standard twin cabin	£99
Deluxe cabin supplement (*double bed*)	£69

Price includes: Economy class air travel, 3 nights accommodation, buffet breakfast daily, 1 dinner, transfers, half day city tour, free use of sauna and gym, 1 massage, UK departure tax, airport tax, services of tour manager.
Not included: Travel insurance, Russian visa, optional excursions, gratuities

DEPARTURES FROM OTHER UK AIRPORTS
Flights are also available from Manchester and Glasgow airports with Scandinavian Airlines *flying via Copenhagen or Stockholm at the* following supplements: Manchester £25 per person, Glasgow £65 per person.

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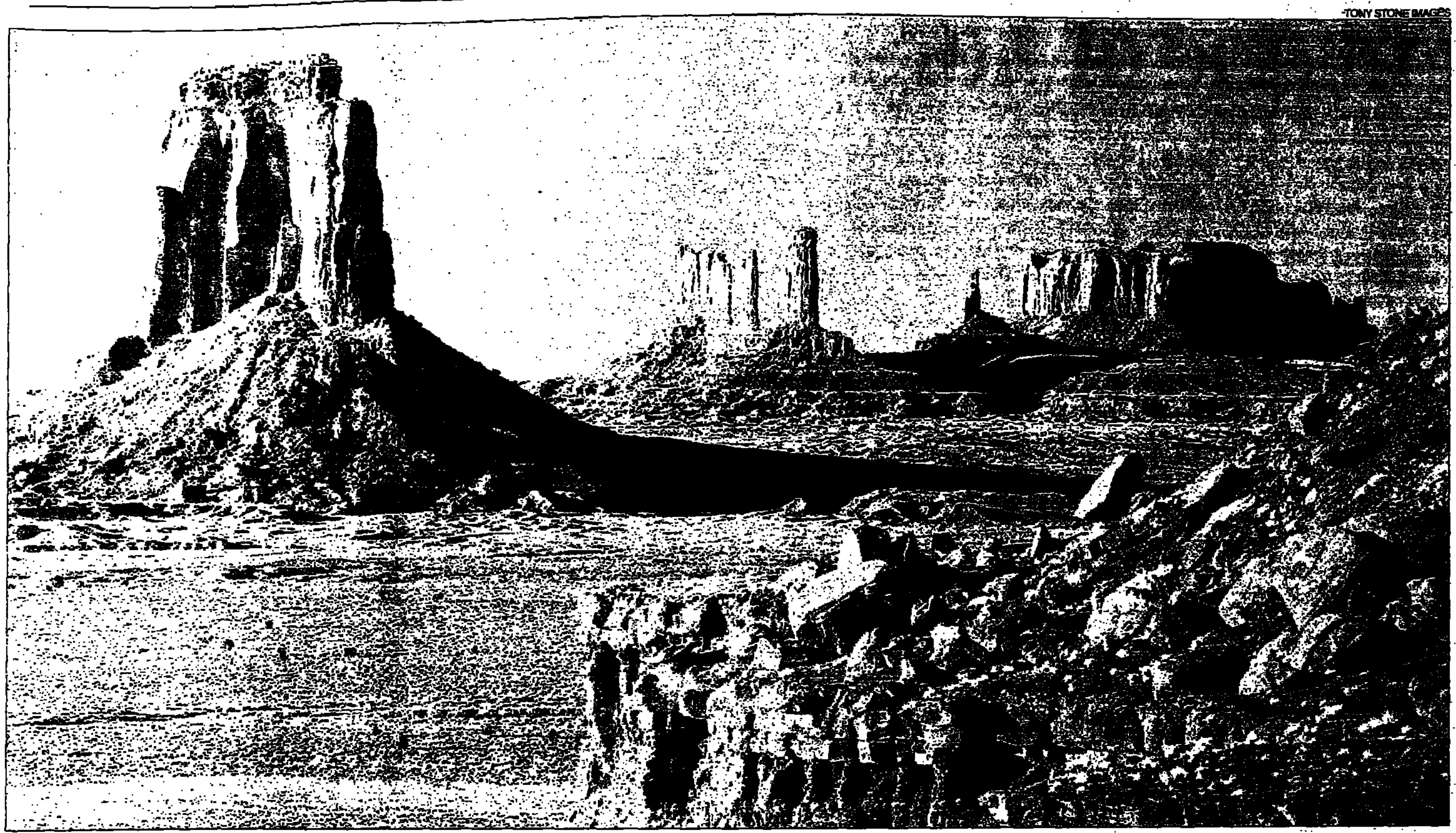
Sarah Anderson treks across the flaming dunes on a sole-searching winter trip to America's South West



TONY STONE IMAGES

Monument Valley, Utah/Arizona, exemplifies the stunning scenery of the American South West, where a short drive separates snowy skiing resorts from parched desert dunes

Snow joke in Albuquerque

My anticipation of the blue skies of New Mexico was particularly keen in the middle of an English winter. Waking to find it snowing on our first morning in Albuquerque was therefore not what I had in mind.

But the snow was no deterrent to my companion's motive: the hunt for the perfect boot. Albuquerque has stores and warehouses crammed with boots, as well as stetsons, jeans and belts. Boots in all sizes and all colours made from crocodile, lizard, snake, ostrich, elephant and armadillo filled aisle after aisle and by the time we emerged from the fifth store we visited, laden with parcels, the sun had come out and the sky was blue.

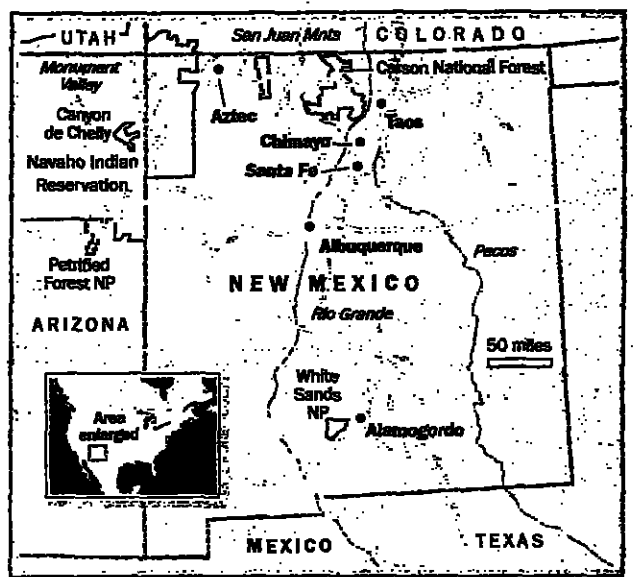
It never snowed again during our trip, but snow lined the road on our drive to Santa Fe, a town with adobe houses which has attracted writers and artists for generations. The centre is filled with galleries and boutiques selling a mixture of tourist souvenirs and genuine art: jewellery, crystals, paintings and the ubiquitous boot.

Local Native Americans sit on the pavement outside the Palace of the Governors selling beautiful handmade jewellery.

The Miraculous Staircase in the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe was built in 1873 by a mysterious man who appeared from nowhere. He disappeared without payment when he had completed his extraordinary task of fitting a spiral staircase into a space deemed impossibly small. The result is a masterpiece.

Returning to our powder-blue rented car, which was reminiscent of the Fifties spaceships which appeared in *Eagle* comics, we headed for Taos on the old road stopping at the Santuario De Chimayo, where pilgrims go in search of a cure. D. H. Lawrence had a ranch near Taos, where he lived in the Twenties. The Shrine houses his ashes, which were brought back from France. I was asked by a couple there whether I had come to worship at the shrine. I muttered, feebly, something about just being curious, but some do go to worship. The property, six miles along a dirt road, has spectacular views over the flat desert plain to the distant mountains where I had dropped my companion off to ski. As we had driven up into the mountains that morning the landscape had changed from desert to alpine and I imagined him shivering in the snow while I basked in the sun.

It was not until we left Taos that I really began to feel the freedom that comes from driving through the vast unspoilt landscapes of the southwestern states of the United States. New Mexico has a land area 30 per cent greater than the whole of the British Isles, but a population of fewer than two million. Empty roads and the radio at maximum volume on the car stereo all contributed to the feeling that this really was a country where nothing was forbidden and anything was possible. From Taos we drove north west through the Carson National Forest and the San Juan mountains to Aztec. *Anasazi* is a Navaho word which describes the ancient settlers dating from AD1 to 1300. It is a mystery why in about AD1300 the *Anasazi* suddenly vanished from this and many other sites. Although the Great Kiva, a semi-underground ceremonial area, has been reconstructed, much of the original fine brickwork dating from the 11th or 12th century still exists.



The earth suddenly becomes red upon reaching Utah, contrasting vividly with the green sagebrush trees dotted around the desert. Straddled between Utah and Arizona in the Navaho Indian Reservation are the sandstone buttes, mesas and cliffs of Monument Valley, the setting for countless westerns, including John Ford's *Stagecoach*. At midday the rose red of the sandstone peaks stood out against the patchy clouds, but towards dusk the clouds evaporated and as the peaks were touched by the setting sun they changed hue, becoming a softer amber colour before the evening shadows began to highlight the curves and angles of these dramatic outcrops. In early February the valley was virtually empty and once the car engine was switched off a cloak of silence descended on the landscape.

Paradoxically, although I felt dwarfed by the magnificence of the space, driving along the long straight roads which go through much of the south west made me feel as if my soul was expanding and I started to see my life back in London as if through the wrong end of a telescope. It seemed so very small and remote. The insignificance of our time and presence on the planet was emphasised by a walk through the Petrified Forest National Park. Littered throughout the eroding desert landscape are vast numbers of what appear to be fallen trees. This forest met its end a quarter of a billion years ago. Over that time the trees have been changed, atom by atom, into rock and crystal, a frozen memorial to the tropical rain forest that once covered the southwestern states.

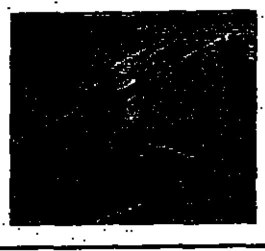
More empty roads and more miles that day took us to Alamogordo, an unknown backwater until July 16, 1945, when the world was changed for ever by the first atom bomb detonated, at the Trinity test site 30 miles north of the town. Seventeen miles due west is the White Sands National Monument, 300 square miles of white gypsum dunes, the largest gypsum deposit in the world.

Our attempt to see it at dawn was thwarted while the nearby military base performed one of its regular missile tests. When it reopened we found ourselves once again in splendid solitude, walking through one of the most extraordinary landscapes I have ever seen: a vast expanse of glittering whiteness interrupted only by the occasional yucca plant.

Enormous car parks with "congested area" signs indicated that at times the Monument must attract many tourists. But wandering alone among the dunes in the warm sun I felt that surely there could be no better time of year than this to visit the national parks of the American south west.

FACT BOX

- Madeleine Wickham flew with Delta (0800 414767), which flies to Las Vegas via Cincinnati or Atlanta from £664.
- Unijet (0990 336336) has charters direct to Las Vegas from November to March, 1998. Flights and car rental for seven days cost from £299.
- Car hire: Hertz (0990 996699) has a week's car hire from Las Vegas for £190 excluding taxes.
- Accommodation: The eccentric Miss Gail's Inn (001 505 334 3452) in Aztec, New Mexico is recommended. Prices are £42 for a double.
- Madeleine Wickham's room-rate budget for motels, which she nearly always kept to, was $60 (about £37.50) a night.
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Savage Pilgrims: On the road to Santa Fe*, by Henry Shukman (Flamingo, £6.99); *The Unoffical Guide to Las Vegas*, (Macmillan, £10.99).



Breakfast followed by desert

The place to eat breakfast if you are really, *really* hungry is the Mirage in Las Vegas, Nevada. I was three months pregnant, jet-lagged and I hadn't eaten properly for 24 hours. As I approached the breakfast buffet I thought I might faint.

I did not know whether to start with a whole fresh pineapple, a made-to-order omelette, or a 10oz rare steak. A waitress brought me my glass of milk (a pint glass), freshly squeezed orange juice (another pint glass) and pot of coffee — refills included. The price of this feast? A mere $5.95 (£3.75).

We were in Las Vegas to begin our great American driving experience. The week before, I had handed in the first draft of my latest novel, *Swimming Pool Sunday*; my husband Henry had just finished recording a collection of English song; in a few months we would be first-time parents. If ever there was a time for the trip of our dreams, this was it.

I wanted to see the Grand Canyon; Henry wanted to drive across the US. We compromised by planning a circuitous route from Las Vegas to Los Angeles, taking in the Grand Canyon on the way.

Now, driving is not really my thing. But the flexibility appealed. We booked nothing in advance except our first two nights in Las Vegas.

As we headed out of Las Vegas into the desert — singing along to a catchy radio number entitled *Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?* — I felt just like Thelma (or do I mean Louise?).

By the afternoon we were at Zion Canyon, one of Utah's spectacular national parks. It was off-season, and practically empty, but all the motels in the little town of Springdale were open. We chose one which offered us a huge room with two kingsized beds, a pristine bathroom and a view of pine trees — all for $39.99 (£25).

The next day we followed hiking trails through the park. The Riverside Trail, the Weeping Rock Trail, the Emerald Pools Trail, each as beautiful and magical as it sounded. We were so high up that although the spring sun was beating down, there were mounds of unmelted snow round every corner.

We drove on to Bryce Canyon National Park, even more spectacular than Zion, even emptier. We walked all morning without seeing a soul, wading through glistening virgin snow in shirt sleeves, gazing down at the canyon's endless vista of biscuit-coloured rock formations. Utah must have the strangest combination of landscapes in the world. We drove from Bryce through Narnia-like silvery trees and snow. By the afternoon we were in the red, scorching desert of Capitol Reef. Then came the bizarre, moon-like landscape of Luna Mesa. We felt as though we could keep driving through this extraordinary country for ever.

Which we nearly did. We had planned to stay that night at a place called Natural Bridges. But Natural Bridges could not offer us a single motel. The nearest was further down the road, in Fry's Canyon. So we carried on to Fry's Canyon. We looked at the motel. One word sprang to mind. That word was Bates.

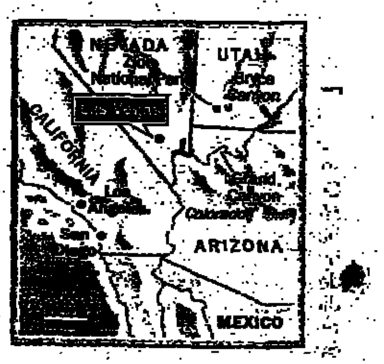
As we gazed at the road stretching before us, I began to wonder why we had not entrusted our itinerary to someone who knew what they were doing. It was either forward 80 miles to the next town or back to somewhere called Hanksville. We chose forward. We drove through Glen Canyon with a stunning red sunset and arrived at Blanding, Utah, in the dark.

Leaving Utah was a wrench. We had the national parks practically to ourselves. Arizona, by comparison, seemed positively crowded. We headed for the Grand Canyon, just like everyone else in the area. As we neared the Canyon, the sightings of tour-buses and "Full" signs increased. It became obvious that we were approaching a major tourist attraction.

We stayed for two days. The weather was snowy. Walking down into the Canyon was only advised for the well-equipped and un-pregnant. I settled for the coffee shop . . .

And so, after a final Arizona T-bone steak, we left Grand Canyon Village and headed for California. We took Route 66, a fact which still means very little to me, although Henry did try to explain. We drove to San Diego and stayed by the beach, then drove up the coast to LA for a few days, before handing back the car.

And, of course, we had a good time in both places. But, when we look back, the highlight of the trip was not the cities. Nor was it the Grand Canyon, nor even Route 66. Contrary to all our expectations, what we remember most fondly is the spectacular scenery of Utah. And, of course, that breakfast in Las Vegas.



MADELEINE WICKHAM

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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Return to the Somme

THE first tank ever to go into action moved out of Ginchy in France at 5.15am on September 15, 1916, to attack a German stronghold. The defenders fled and the stalemate of trench warfare in the First World War was eventually broken.

Holts' Tours (01304 612248), the battlefield specialist, is organising a four-day itinerary in September. It starts at the Bovington Tank Museum in Dorset, before crossing the Channel to visit the battlefields of the Somme and Cambrai, and Villers Bretonneux, the scene of the first tank v tank battle. The tour costs £399, including fares, coach travel, half-board accommodation and entrance fees.

CAMERA PRESS

Return to the fighting fields: Battle of Cambrai in November 1917, where massed tanks broke through the German lines, hastening the end of the First World War

JILL CRAWSHAW'S AUTUMN BREAKS

Family farm

AUTUMN budget breaks across the Channel may help to delay those post-summer blues. InnTravel (01653 628811), which offers a tempting variety of trips, has recently discovered a family-run *ferme-auberge* dating from the 13th century at Mareville, in the Valley of the Course. This is one of the more picturesque and peaceful, yet lesser-known, areas of Picardy. Country cooking from farm-fresh produce is the speciality. The two-night break costs from £85 for half-board and ferry crossing.

Further west, Brittany Ferries (0171-771 7008 or 0990 360360) which took over the Gites de France organisation last November, offers Gite d'Interlude self-catering short breaks in country cottages in Brittany, Normandy and the Loire Valley between October and May. The prices, based on a minimum stay of two nights, start at £43 per night per gite. The company took over the Gites de France organisation last November.

SPA specialist Erna Low (0171-584 2841) can offer health breaks in a warm climate to help you prepare yourself for the winter. Five days staying at Biovimer, on the Côte d'Azur, the largest sea-water therapy and fitness centre in Europe, cost £693 for flights, half-board and three thalassotherapy treatments a day. A personalised treatment programme designed for slimming, toning and fighting stress is available at the Clos des Olivers, a converted Andalucian farmhouse in Marbella, for £795 (including flights and full board). A holistic approach to relaxation is the key to the Corinthia Palace's five-day break in Malta, which costs £633 for flights, half-board and lots of treatments.

Culture tours

CULTURAL pursuits from the British Museum Traveller (0171-323 8895) include autumn breaks to Vienna and the newly opened Louvre Galleries in Paris.

On the five-day Austrian tour, which costs £975 for flights, half-board accommodation and entrance fees, there are visits to art collections in Vienna, an evening at the opera and lectures on the Habsburg Empire. The last night is spent in Salzburg, following the steps of Mozart.

A three-day tour to Paris in early November, for travellers with an interest in ancient Persia, offers the chance to see the newly opened ancient Iran galleries at the Louvre. The tour, priced at £593, is under the tutelage of John Curtis, keeper of Western Antiquities at the British Museum.

Nouveau taste

STAMINA is needed for the trip by VFB (01242 240338) to the Fête des Sarmentelles in the heart of Beaujolais Nouveau country at vintage time. The three-day trip includes an evening of wine tasting, a gala dinner, a torchlit procession to where the new wine is officially launched by a firework display — and dancing till dawn.

Based at Lyons, the festival break costs £324 for return travel by train, two nights' B&B, tastings, dinner at the festival and a dinner cruise on the Rhône.

If you want to help with the harvesting (though it is not obligatory), Arblaster and Clarke (01730 893344) can arrange a five-night trip to a wine château at Minervois, near Carcassonne. There will be copious meals and tastings and Derek Smedley, wine consultant, will be on hand for information and advice. The price is £1,099 for flights, most meals with wine and, of course, the tastings.

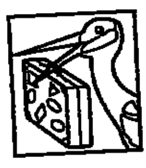
For riesling fans, Moswin (0116-271 9922) offers three-night weekends half-board at Derdesheim, on Germany's Wine Road, for £399, including flights.

Hunt the truffle

AUTUMN tours for fungi fanciers include woodland forays with experts in search of edible species, cookery lessons and lots of sampling from gourmet menus. "Mushroom Special" weekends are organised by Unicorn Holidays (01582 834400) from September 26 and all through October. The weekends are based at Le Manoir du Lys in Normandy and cost £377 for a two-night stay. Full board and cross-Channel ferries for car and passengers are included.

The annual truffle hunts organised by Arblaster and Clarke (01730 893344) take place at the end of October in the Langhe hills of Piedmont in Italy, heartland of the much-prized white fungus. Eating, truffle hunting and tasting local bardo wines are all on the menu. The price is £829 for flights and four nights' full-board.

Bird watch



ABOUT 60,000 trumpeting cranes with 8ft wingspans, droves of bustards and crowds of lesser white-fronted geese all assemble on the Hungarian plains during October. It is part of their great migration from Siberia to the warmer winter climate of Africa.

In all there are about 100 bird species to spot during the four-night break from birdwatching specialist Limosa Holidays (01263 578143). The price is £695, which includes return scheduled flights and full-board hotel accommodation in Hajduszoboszlo, with picnics or lunches in rural inns.

LOTS of action in the Arctic is promised by Arctic Experience (01737 218800) on its five-night Iceland activity breaks between October and May. The cost of £417 includes flights, three nights' B&B in a fishing village just south of the Arctic Circle and two nights in Reykjavik. Ice fishing, snowshoeing and Jeep safaris are among the activities, but these do cost extra.

Beautiful Bled

PICTURE-BOOK Lake Bled, in Slovenia, used to be the summer holiday venue of the former royal family of Yugoslavia and was much loved by President Tito, who entertained foreign guests there. Bled has sunny autumn temperatures and activities such as walking, fishing, riding and cycling. The water is surprisingly warm, so you can usually swim in the lake well into October.

There is interesting sightseeing nearby, including Vintgar Gorge, the Sum waterfall, the less developed but attractive Lake Bohinj and a clutch of little medieval churches full of superb frescoes.

Slovenia Pursuits (01763 852646) offers three-night breaks, staying on working farms or in small hotels, from £310. This price includes B&B accommodation in a farmhouse and flights.

Opera treats

ALTHOUGH tickets for the Wexford Opera Festival (October 16-November 2) are sold out at the box office, opera specialist JMB Travel (01905 425628) still has packages available with tickets for each of three productions: *Elena Da Feltre* featuring Saverio Mercadante; *Rusalka* featuring Alexander Dargomizhsky and *La Fiamma* with Ottorino Respighi.

The festival was founded in 1951 from humble origins as the Wexford Gramophone Society, with performances at the Theatre Royal. Sir Compton McKenzie, its presenter, suggested organising live performances instead.

A four-day escorted tour with three nights' full board, flights and three operas costs £719. Three-night breaks by car and ferry, with two opera tickets, cost £285.

TRAVEL NEWS

Staying out of Hong Kong

THE HANDOVER of Hong Kong on June 30 failed to attract many tourists. Visitor numbers from the UK fell by more than 11 per cent to 24,500 during June and the total number of visitors from other countries fell further by 14 per cent to 789,000.

The Hong Kong Tourist Association said many people had assumed Hong Kong would be both full and expensive during June. However, UK tourist numbers were up by 6 per cent for the first half of this year.

■ **HOLIDAYMAKERS** facing flight delays may receive better compensation next summer. The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) is studying plans to introduce a sliding scale of payment to take effect below the 12-hour average used by most airlines.

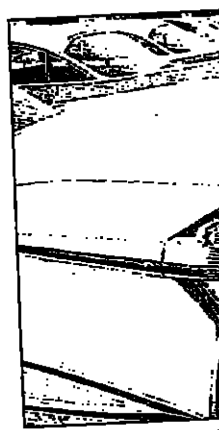
Keith Richards, ABTA's head of consumer affairs, said: "The issue has got to be taken seriously if we are to stave off government intervention."

■ **THOUSANDS** of holidaymakers renting a car in the US could be under-insured, according to Marcus Hearn, a travel insurance broker. The firm said car rental firms in the US charge additional rates to cover their vehicles — but levels of personal liability insurance can be as low as $5,000.

Jeffrey Klipp, managing director, said: "In the event of an accident, the car will be covered but the driver could end up being sued for thousands of dollars."

The firm is one of several brokers which sells policies of about £3.50 a day to take third-party liability up to $1m. There is also $100,000 cover if the tourist is in collision with any uninsured motorists.

STEVE KEENAN



Tourists in the US should check their car insurance

Ferry rides offer the best views of a city. **Jeremy Seal** offers his favourite top ten

Wait until the boat comes in

The ferry that had linked San Diego's downtown since 1886 with the resort area around the Hotel del Coronado, where *Some Like It Hot* was filmed, was put out of business, predictably enough, by the building of the Coronado Bridge in 1969. Less predictably, the service was resumed in 1987 after a public campaign. The modern world may have squeezed the city ferry but it has not killed it off. Here is *The Times* countdown to the world's top ten city ferry rides.

10. The Cacilhas Ferry, Lisbon: Almost 50,000 people continue to take Lisbon's ferries across the Tagus to work every day; the 25th April Suspension Bridge is notorious for queues. Cacilhas has a few reasonable fish restaurants but the crossing is really about appreciating the excellent views of Lisbon.

9. Devonport and Waiheke Inland Ferries, Auckland: The two main services run from the ferry building on Quay Street. The service to Devonport, an Auckland suburb, runs every half-hour until 11pm. Another ferry serves Waiheke Island, a community of alternative lifestylers that is also a wine-making mecca.

8. Oakland Ferry, San Francisco: Discontinued in the 1950s, this route was reopened in 1990 and leaves San Francisco's handsome Ferry Building every hour in the rush hour and every 90 minutes otherwise, calling at Alameda on the 30-minute crossing to Oakland's Jack London Square. Highlights are views of Alcatraz Island and passing under the Bay Bridge.

7. The Bainbridge Inland Ferry, Seattle: The 2,000-capacity ferries make 22 trips daily from the island enclave of Bainbridge to Pier 52 at Seattle's downtown waterfront. The nine-mile crossing, which carries wealthy island dwellers to work (see Michael Douglas in *Disclosure*), takes 35 minutes. In winter, the Puget Sound crossing can be cold and rough but on good days, the views of islands, snow-capped mountains and even occasional whale-sightings make for an inspirational commute.

6. The Mersey Ferry, Liverpool: The 1960s ferries run a triangular commuter service that links Pierhead, Liverpool, with Seacombe and Woodside on Wirral. Bonuses include views of Liverpool's great Victorian landmarks, the Liver Building, the Port of Liverpool Building and the Cunard Building, as well as the Anglican Cathedral.

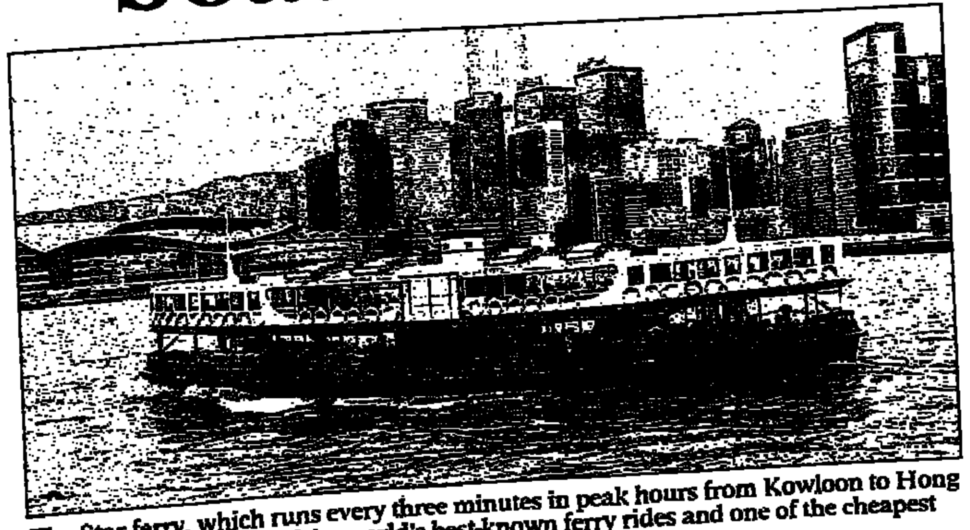
5. The Niteroi Ferry, Rio de Janeiro: The nine-mile bridge across Guanabara Bay was not designed for pedestrians, who continue to pack the ferry from the quay at Praca 15 de Novembre. Residential Niteroi has little to offer; get straight back on the first return ferry to savour views of Rio's harbour, the Sugar Loaf Mountain and the statue of Christ. Also enjoy the hawkers' offerings of everything from jewellery to home-made ice cream on the 20-minute crossing.

4. The Manly Ferry, Sydney: Manly is a resort area at the mouth of Sydney Harbour. Ferries leave the Circular Quay, in the shadow of the Harbour Bridge, and head past the Opera House through the Heads, Sydney Harbour's dramatic entrance.

3. The Star Ferry, Hong Kong: The Star Ferry between Tsim Tsa Tsui, Kowloon and Central, Hong Kong Island, which will celebrate its centenary next year, is one of the world's best known ferry rides — and one of the cheapest. Don't try and save 2p by going second class: you'll be on the lower deck and miss the views of Hong Kong's highrise skyline. The service runs between 6.30am and 11.30pm with a three-minute frequency during peak hours.

2. The Bosphorus Ferries, Istanbul: Despite soaring bridges across the Bosphorus, Istanbul remains a city cross-hatched by ferry routes. The best is the ten-minute crossing between European Karakoy, on the Beyoglu side of Galanta Bridge and Asian Haydarpasha where the ferry moors below the great *fin-de-siècle* train station, all ornate columns and an exotic departures board featuring Tehran and Damascus. On the crossing, waiters in once-white jackets offer black tea, coke and yoghurt drink called *ayran*. Buy a lottery ticket or have your shoes cleaned while enjoying unrivalled views of the city's mosques and palaces.

1. The Staten Inland Ferry, New York: Carrying up to 4,500 passengers on each journey, the ferry makes more than 50 crossings each way every weekday from St George Ferry Terminal on the island to the Whitehall Ferry Terminal in Lower Manhattan. The five-mile journey takes about 25 minutes, plenty of time to take in the glory of the skyline and to imagine yourself taking Manhattan by storm like Melanie Griffiths in *Working Girl*.



The Star ferry, which runs every three minutes in peak hours from Kowloon to Hong Kong Island, is one of the world's best-known ferry rides and one of the cheapest

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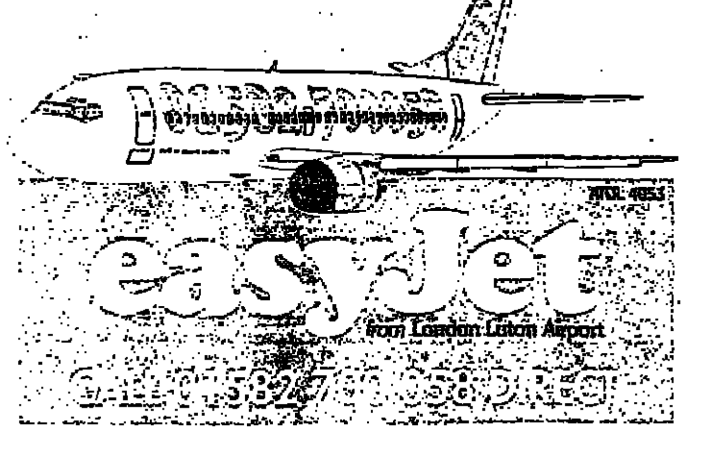

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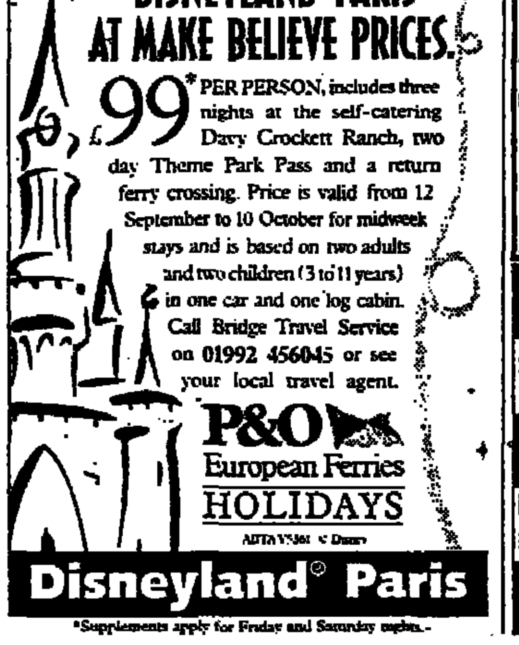

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

GRANDMASTER Jon Speelman, the former World Championship semi-finalist, crashed badly at the end of the first week of the Smith & Williamson British Chess Championship in Hove, which finished yesterday.

Speelman lost both to James Plaskett and Malcolm Pein. However, he did have the consolation of winning one of the most beautiful and elegant games.

White: Jon Speelman; Black: Charles Cobb
Smith & Williamson British Chess Championship, August 1997
Queen's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6
3 g3 b6

In a later round Plaskett beat Speelman with 3 ... c5.

4 Bg2 Bb7 5 c4 Be7
6 0-0 0-0 7 Nc3 Ne4
8 Bd2 f5 9 d5 Bf6
10 Rc1

A standard line of the Queen's Indian Defence has developed, in which White offers to trade in the bishop pair in exchange for superior central control.

10 ... Na6 11 Be1.

Finally securing his bishop from exchange.

11 ... Nac5 12 Nd4 Nxc3
13 Bxc3 e5

An interesting pawn sacrifice.

14 Nxf5 Bg5 15 f4

White could preserve his extra pawn with 15 Ne3 but after 15 ... Bxe3 16 fxe3 Qg5 Black has magnificent compensation. Speelman prefers to enter complications.

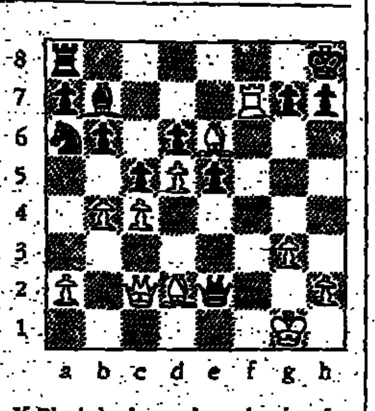
15 ... Rxf5 16 Qc2 Rf8
17 fxg5 Qxg5 18 b4 Na6
19 Bd2 Qh5 20 Bf3 Qe8
21 Be4 Qh5 22 Rf3 d6
23 Rcf1

The upshot of Black's combination is that White has pressure in the centre and on the king's flank, while Black's knight on a6 is lamentably short of perspectives.

23 ... Rxf3 24 Bxf3 Qh3
25 Be4 Qh5 26 Bf5 Kh8

If 26 ... Qxe2 White has the pleasant choice between 27 Bxh7+ and 27 Be6+ Kh8 28 Qf5 with an enduring attack.

27 Be6 c5 28 Rf7 Qxe2



If Black had now been hoping for 29 Rxb7 Nxb4 with counterplay he is in for a shock. Speelman comes up with a thunderbolt.

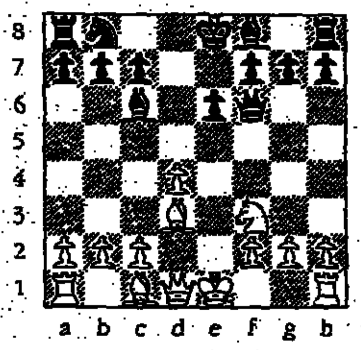
29 Bh6 Qe1+

If 29 ... Qxc2 White mates commencing 30 Bxg7+.

30 Kg2 Rg8 31 Bxg7+
Black resigns

After 31 ... Rxg7 32 Rf8+ mates.

The Winning Move of August 4 led many of you into a trap. White to play. Black has allowed the possibility of 1 Bg5, apparently trapping his queen, as he anticipates the reply 1 ... Bxf3, counter-attacking against the white queen.



Solution: 1 Bg5! Bxf3 2 Qd2! and the black queen is trapped. The suggestion by many readers was that Black could escape after 1 Bg5 Bxf3 2 Qd2 by means of 2 ... Qxd4. However, the discovery 3 Bb5+ still wins Black's queen. For example 3 ... Nc6 4 Qxd4, when Black's knight is pinned, or 3 ... Bc6 (best) 4 Qxd4 Bxb5. However, White with queen against two minor pieces and a pawn will win easily.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

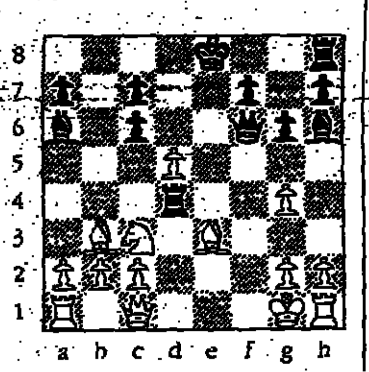
Black to play. This position is from the game Hazai - Sax, Budapest 1971.

Although White is a piece up, Black's two wonderful bishops cut into the white position like a pair of scissors. *How did Black continue?*

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Qxe6+

Last week's winner: B Piper, Lower Edmonton, London.



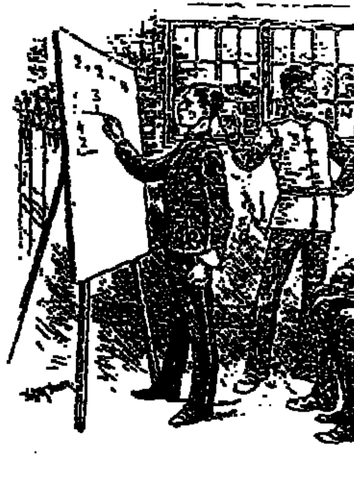
PUNCHLINE

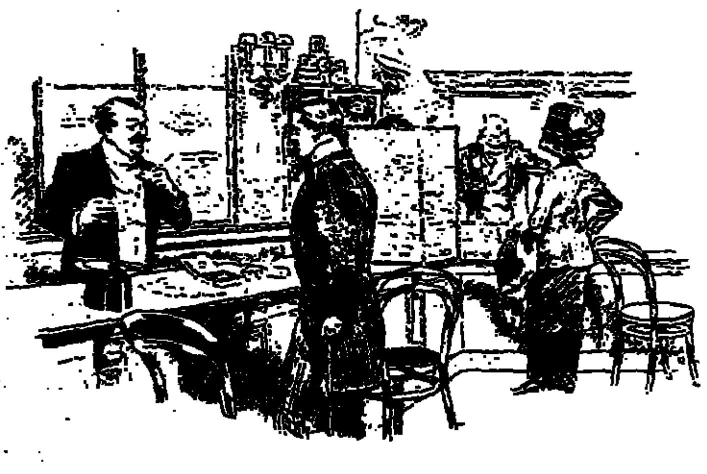
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 65, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 20.





"In confidence Sir, I think the lady would get a better trade-in at Harrods"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by H.Rothwell of Barnston, Essex

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SLUB
a. An untidy woman
b. A lumpy yarn
c. To keep goal at lacrosse

TORRY
a. To tease a bull
b. To toast
c. A purple rock plant

URSCHLEIM
a. A Nordic Hell
b. Primal slime
c. A sweet Austrian wine

SNOEK
a. A rude gesture
b. A lazy layabout
c. A fish

Answers on page 18

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN CONTRACTS where you have plenty of trumps, there are often possibilities of elimination play. The hand below is an example.

Dealer South North-South game IMPs

North
♠ Q 8 7 3 2
♥ A 6 5 3
♦ 10 7 4
♣ 10

South
♠ A 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ A K J 8 5 2
♣ -

S	W	N	E
1 D	Pass	1 S	2 C
2 H	3 D	4 H	Dble
All Pass			

Contract: Four Hearts doubled, by South
Lead: king of clubs

In the match between Russia and Great Britain in the Generali European Open Championship, the Hackett twins were East-West on this hand.

South was playing a Strong Club system so, as his One Diamond opening limited his hand to 16 points, he could afford to reverse with Two Hearts on the second round of the auction.

An Acol player would just rebid Two Diamonds over East's Two Clubs. West's bid of Three Diamonds showed a club raise with a smattering of high cards.

The declarer ruffed the club lead and ducked a heart. East won with the jack and returned the king of hearts, West discarding a club. *How should declarer continue?*

The Russian declarer (Kholomeev) cashed the ace of diamonds and then exited with a third heart. This was the full deal:

North
♠ Q 8 7 3 2
♥ A 6 5 3
♦ 10 7 4
♣ 10

West
♠ J 10 9
♥ 10
♦ Q 9 6
♣ K J 9 8 7 2

East
♠ K 6 5
♥ K Q J
♦ 3
♣ A Q 6 5 4 3

South
♠ A 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ A K J 8 5 2
♣ -

When East won the third heart he had to play away from the king of spades or give a ruff and discard, so the defence lost their spade trick.

At the other table, Gerald Tredinnick also played in Four Hearts, but he was not doubled. He ruffed the club lead and played ace and another heart: now East could cash his second heart trick before exiting with his singleton diamond. Thus Tredinnick lost two hearts, a diamond and a spade.

Even without the clue of the double this was poor play. The hand is trivial if the hearts split 2-2. In case they were 3-1, Tredinnick should have played as Kholomeev did, or alternatively cashed the ace of diamonds before playing ace and another heart.

Both plays gain whenever the player with the third heart has no safe exit. And, at worst, East will turn up with three hearts and be able to play a second diamond.

At that point, declarer has to guess the diamonds, which he also

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

"I WOULD devote my Web site to my allotment, which is Plot 29 on the Pakenham Close site in Cambridge," said Peter Marshall, "an amateur vegetable and flower grower" and a winner in last month's **Cyberspace Thirty-Three** competition.

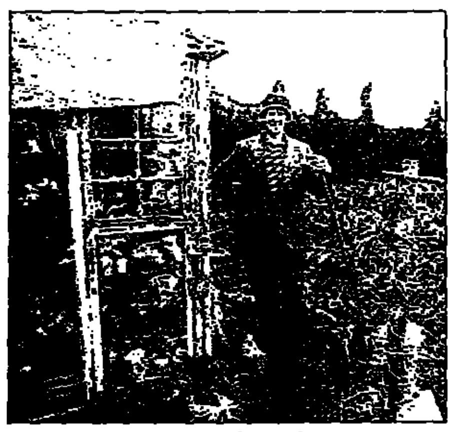
"On my Web site I would include up-to-date photographs and information about what jobs are being done or what crops are being harvested. At present I am enjoying lovely mangetout, summer cabbages, courgettes, potatoes, lettuce and carrots, to name but a few." Mr Marshall will also use his site to promote the health benefits of running allotments, gardening tips and to give details of how to go about getting an allotment.

He is one of 12 readers who have each won 12-month **Direct Connection** subscriptions and the opportunity to run their own Web sites for all the world to visit and explore.

Darrel Lowry, of Annahilt, Co Down, Northern Ireland, came up with an equally knock-out idea for his spot in cyberspace. He wrote: "I am an anaesthetist in Belfast and my home page would be a site for people to discover what anaesthetists do — many people do not realise we are qualified doctors — and offer information about operations, pain relief and possible complications. Although professionally I send people to sleep, my site would be exciting enough to keep people interested."

Mr Lowry added that his site will "serve as a home page for the Northern Ireland Group of Anaesthetists in Training, providing announcements and meeting details as well as links to related Internet sites". To cap it all, he hopes his page will become something of a tourist trap. "I would also like to use my home page to promote the Province, with Internet links to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the *Belfast Telegraph*."

Richard Symonds of Bexleyheath, Kent, plans to use his Web site to allow others to experience "the whole misery of modern-day travel without having to leave the house". He wrote: "Research shows that the longest time which most families spend together is when travelling in the car. My Web site would use this feature and create the concept of the virtual journey. Whether by car, train or bus, my site would have the theme of travel with no arrival.



The Cyberspace Thirty-Three winner devoted a web site to his allotment

"It would be for the whole family to use, accessing the site for an interminable virtual journey around the M25 or along the M4 or M3. We could recapture those authentic jams without the stress levels." He added another spin on the idea: "A package holiday site could be accessed with airport delays, baggage-handlers' strikes and missed air-departure slots".

Our other winners, whose entries will be featured in the coming few weeks, are: Nigel Lamb of Edgware, Middlesex; C. Emblem of Newmarket, Suffolk; Gavin Macgregor-Skinner of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey; Bola Adamolekun of Hampstead, northwest London; Stephen Cole of Farringdon, London; Alan Essex, of Leeds; Norman Payne of Liverpool; Bryan Goodridge of Birmingham; and Leslie King of Hove, Sussex.

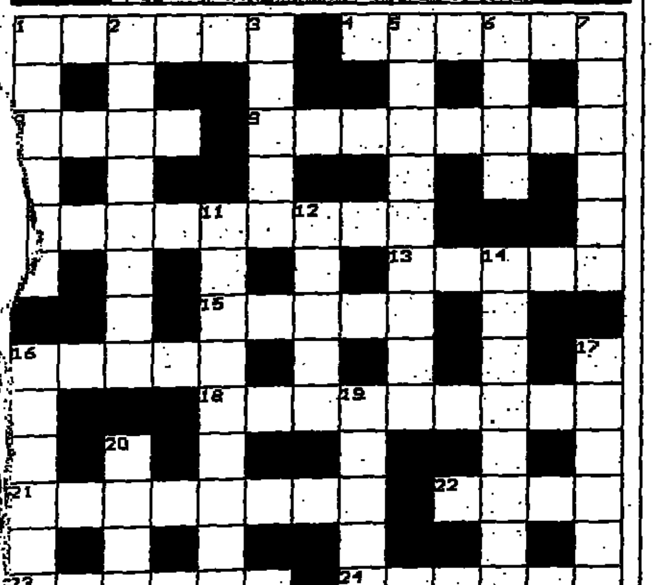
Each will now try translating their dream sites into realities, with help from Direct Connection's in-house team if required, and the relevant addresses will be published as soon as sites open for visitors. Thank you to all who entered. If you were not a winner but would still like to get connected to the Internet, we have arranged a discount with Direct Connection which will save readers £35. Mention *The Times* and you can get a 12-month subscription for the price of ten months, with no set-up fee, for just £135. Telephone 0800 0720000 for details.

The eternal search for an excellent pinball title for the PC goes on, despite a clutch of new releases. The best of the latest rather lean crop has to be **Maxis Pinball 97**, which runs on Windows 95. It has three tables — Mad Scientist, Alien Daze and Captain Hero.

Nudging is an essential part of gameplay, and there are plenty of multi-ball moments to keep you alert. Four can compete in rotation. One of the least inspiring is **Pro Pinball timeshock!** for Windows 95. It claims to behave "just like the real thing", although if pinball was this bland it would never have caught on.

Still hungry for a truly interactive pintable, I also tested the **21st Century Pinball Construction Kit**, which runs on Windows 3.1 and later versions. With 30 playing fields plus pins, jet bumpers, flashing lights and roll-over switches, one might think it promised the moon. But although the title suggests you start with a blank canvas to build on, it is actually just painting by predetermined numbers. You can only piece together, with slight variation, someone else's mediocre master designs.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1174

ACROSS
1 Entertainment; crossroads (6)
Shock, fear (6)
Unwell (4)
S Africa capital (8)
By that very fact (4,5)
Relative; pawnbroker (5)
Rapture (5)
Shrink in fear (5)
Approximate (9)
Abandoned (8)
Style of walking (4)
Blush (6)
Author (6)

DOWN
1 Of the universe (6)
2 Human-powered taxi (8)
3 Brownish tone (eg in old photo) (5)
5 Turned up (nose) (9)
6 (Distinctive) attire (4)
7 Hypnotic state (6)
11 Construct; concoct (9)
12 Incisive; crunchy (5)
14 Pretender (to title) (8)
16 Grant; consult (6)
17 Rankle (6)
19 Prolong (library loan); start again (5)
20 Poke (4)

UTION TO NO 1173
OSS: 4 Fable 7 Scavenge 8 Bump 9 Regiment
earty 13 Miller 14 Retain 15 Reggae 18 Gunfight
nd 20 Hate mail 21 Tryst
N: 1 Assume 2 Tamper 3 Betray 4 Feminine 5 Blue
6 Easter 11 Autonomy 12 Twilight 14 Ragout
tten 16 Guffaw 17 Arnold

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3423: Cathexis from Dimitry

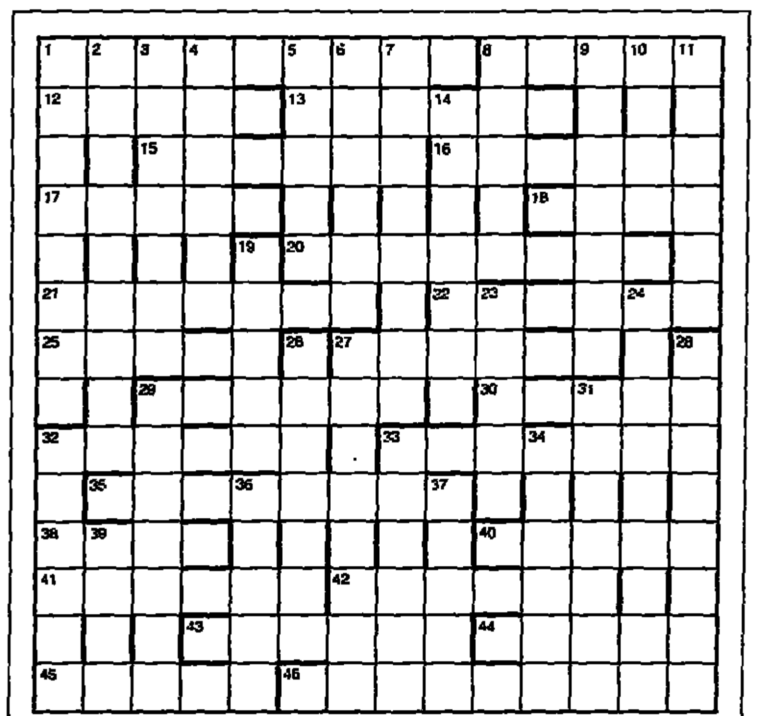
ENTRIES are formed from clue answers by converting the word to a string consisting of its numeral form, using A=1 to Z=26, jumbling the *individual* digits and reinterpreting them as another word for entry. Thus, DIMITRY (49139201825) has produced CATHEXIS (31208524919) whereas among other Listener setters tackling this idea, ADAM might have created MAN, BUFO could display ZEAL and SABRE would have been SURE, though had ALBAN produced BUNK, ASCOT might have let off STEAM. The twelve italicised clues lead to proper nouns, the entered forms for which, the compiler hopes, can be seen as strangely appropriate or amusing in relation to the answer. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended but does not contain some proper nouns. Dimitry wishes to thank HYPERION for his help.

ACROSS

1 *Modern composer's tune shocks one awfully* (11)
8 Beginning to indicate primitive Carib's core source of poison (5)
12 *Imperfection shown by 250 in 1000* (4)
13 Small farm Scots bought around river (5)
15 Rooks moult younger losing tail (7)
16 Positive termination? OK death, perhaps! (7)
17 Pyramids cut off thanks to rising water surging on coast (6)
18 Cat run over on motorway (3)
20 Cure thirsty sailor (7)
21 *Gothamite held back by the tired Batman* (8)
22 Judge boss a high-flier? (5)
25 Blue flower developed from lilacs (6)
27 *One above all turning to cut grass for fodder* (6)
29 Drizzles around borders with Sweden (5)
30 American abandoning strange item of bric-a-brac (5)
32 Wood cutter disreputable person apprehended (6)
33 A native acting dramatic character (7)
35 *Guard shaken up in BR rescue* (8)
38 Some like babies' food (5)
40 Is gypsy woman collecting centrally rag and bones? (6)
41 An amount of computer memory equipment holding parts of brain (7)
42 *Community zone accepted official* (5)
43 Name held by provider of bread? (6)
44 Biting one got from mite (5)
45 *Returned work by English poet* (5)
46 —— to rent, sort of not super hotels (10)

DOWN

1 Doctors drop estimates (9)
2 Sun hat material lifts, exposes head, perhaps, to sunlight (9)
3 *Brownish-yellow grass in wet soil* (7)
4 What help audience, reacting as if dead? (8)
5 Transport vehicle on railway (5)
6 *Regular publication unknown beforehand* (6)
7 Office claims lots of letters (8)
8 *Judges American is traitor* (5)
9 See college in night rioting securing doors (8)
10 Fabulous bird turning corner (3)
11 *Poet's measure* (5)
14 *Etruscan prince cut down a fruit tree* (6)
19 Small airship showing a trace of movement in radar image (5)
23 Got rid of old American fish in tin (6)
24 He carries out extra beer (8)
26 Shuckers? It would be wrong taking out half of middle! (7)
27 *Greeting oriental native in part of high mountains* (9)
28 *Communist belief: machine gun gets round both King and Society* (7)
29 *Two men intend uprising for old kingdom* (7)
31 Counter attempt to sell protected bird (8)
32 *She inspires sexless author's repeated name-dropping* (7)
33 *Computerised method of entry vital to rocket launch site* (6)
34 Like some fair people ran without care (8)
36 Divert a No.32, perhaps (5)
37 *Goblin held in pious fear* (6)
39 Fleet, but limiting velocity (4)



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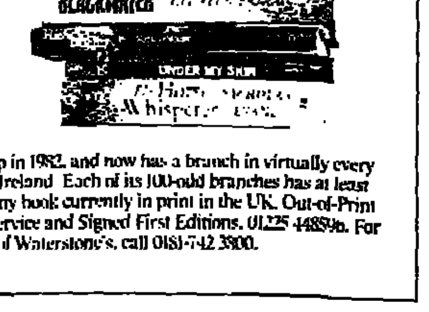
The winner will receive a Waterstone's book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10



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ENGLAND 1ST INNINGS - DOWN

AUSTRALIA 1ST INNINGS - ACROSS

ENGLAND 2ND INNINGS - RIGHT TO LEFT

H	I	C	V	E	D	I	I	I	L	E	X
E	X	L	L	R	E	L	L	X	I	I	X
L	I	X	L	I	I	A	L	O	V	L	X
X	L	M	X	X	X	V	V	L	Y	D	V
I	L	A	N	E	I	I	V	D	I	D	S
T	I	X	I	N	X	I	D	X	I	I	I
A	X	I	L	I	S	L	E	L	C	P	S
T	A	X	L	N	G	E	V	I	I	C	T
E	X	I	X	E	N	T	L	L	V	I	I
B	I	V	S	N	I	I	X	I	X	N	O
U	R	E	T	I	C	S	A	P	P	O	K
M	A	L	I	E	I	X	S	S	E	I	X

AUSTRALIA 2ND INNINGS - UP

Solution to No3420: Headingly 81 by Phil Brindall

The nine answers which have to be adjusted using something other than Roman numerals are as follows:

Australia 1st innings
6. Tibetan (beta (2) + 58 = xi (60))
England 1st innings
5. fou rire (four + 5 = nine, I + 10 = XI)
England 2nd innings
5. ODs (0 + I = I)
6. mud (mu (40) + 20 = xi (60), D + 13 = DXIII)
10. onion (I + 18 = XIX, 0 + 11 = 11)
11. pietas (pi eta (88) + 2 = koppa (90))
Australia 2nd innings
1. etat (eta (8) + 34 = mu beta (42))
2. Anura (nu (50) + 10 = xi (60)
12. tiki (1 + 9 = 10, 1 + 9 = X)

The winner is R.Teuton of *Stockcross, Berkshire*
The five runners-up are: J.Leach of London; M. and N.Hay; Sheila Perkis of Rushden, Northants; D.Milne of Shepton Mallet; Nigel Gavin of Sevenoaks, Kent.

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THE TIMES

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ARE you 30+ prof, live in Thames Valley area, are witty, good looking, have a warm personality, fit, well educated & unattached? So am I! If so, please reply to Box No 6834 Photo preferred. ☎ ✍

ARTIST, 5'6", slim, redhead (London). Loves dancing & theatre. Looking for solvent humorous male (35-50) to share my life with. Photo please to Box No 6666 ☎ ✍

ATTENTIVE, 40 yr old N/S woman wants a lifelong companion, including marriage. I'm Scorpio, fairly independent, a smile goes a long way with me. You, up to 55, solvent business man, looks unimportant, maturity is. I'm Huntingdon based, you have car will travel!! Please write ALA. Box 6771 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE Geneva-based Anglo-Saxon, 50, uncomplicated, willing to travel, financially stable, WLTM sporty English gent, 50-55, skier, for long lasting friendship. Please Reply to Box No 6861 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE Russian lady (London based), 33, well educated WLTM intelligent, kind, reliable gentleman for lasting happy marriage. Please Reply to Box No 6765 ☎ ✍

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LADIES

ATTRACTIVE, happy, professional lady late 50's, North West based, WLTM gentleman for fun, travel, etc. Reply to Box No 6816 ☎ ✍

BLONDE, attractive, professional lady, with GSOH, living in Berkshire, seeks N/S interesting, tall gentleman, 45/55 (photograph please) to share interests of theatre, gardening, antiques, tennis, good wine and the arts. Reply to Box No 6878 ☎ ✍

CARING, attractive, professional lady 40, enjoys food, wine, music and travel WLTM N/S professional man to share happy times. Photo appreciated. North Yorkshire. Please Reply to Box No 6789 ☎ ✍

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GORGEOUS blonde seeks very special, loveable, loving man. Enthusiasms include country, horses, books, music. South (probably), tall, 40-50? Please write to me with photo to Box No 6857 ☎ ✍

HOME overlooking water Central London/Devon/Dorset? Positive, free-spirited Hertfordshire-based woman seeks 55-65 humorous, stylish man to give added river/sea perspective to my green field surroundings. Box No 6856 ☎ ✍

LONDON widow, 40 blonde, attractive amusing, enjoys wining, dining, exotic travel, theatre, etc. homelife WLTM solvent gentleman 45-60 to spoil me and bring some laughter and happiness back into my life, in return promise T.L.C. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 6808 ☎ ✍

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PASSIONATE, intellectual, impulsive, impatient 31 yr old seeks spirited, extroverted 32-42 yr old for lifelong adventure. Plse send photo to Box No 6841 ☎ ✍

PETITE blonde, with zest for life, divorced, financially independent lady, elegant, attractive, n/s, kind and sincere. Seeking kind, honest, solvent, professional gentleman in his 40s-50s, not too staid for serious relationship. My interests include cinema, travel, and countryside. Midlands/surrounding Counties Willing to travel Photo appreciated Bx 6795 ☎ ✍

PRETTY, fun-loving, wacky lady politics graduate with MBA (Jewish, N/O), GSOH, London based WLTM likeminded N/S 40-55 year old professional man who can share my love of dogs, bridge, theatre, Scrabble & great vegetarian food. Photo essential. Box No 6860 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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PRETTY, fit, professional female, 34, n/s, enjoys dining out, travel, country pubs WLTM similar genuine n/s prof man 30-42 with GSOH. Photo appreciated Yorkshire Bx 6794 ☎ ✍

PRETTY, witty City lawyer, occasionally Jewish seeks successful educated man 40's. Box No 6584 ☎ ✍

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SAGITTARIAN sixty small sexy spiritual seeks educated open minded kind man. S. Oxon. Box No 6740 ☎ ✍

SHOPPING early for Christmas, slim, romantic, intelligent, articulate happy professional brunette seeks spontaneous, honest, tactile, secure professional male 48+ to turn on my lights & more. Kent based. ALA with photo. Box 6799 ☎ ✍

STEWARDESS extremely pretty, slim, 30 yrs old, mixed race, gregarious & confident personality, excellent sense of humour, kind natured & romantic. Seeks intelligent gentleman 25-35 who is honest & reliable but possesses energy & a zest for life. London based. Photo please. Box No 6802 ☎ ✍

SUPERFIT, very pretty Muslim babe, dentist, 29, London-based. Loves travelling and stimulating company. Are you a vibrant, caring professional of similar background aged 27-35? Then write to me & let's meet up! Reply to Box No 6852 ☎ ✍

WANTED: A miracle. Articulate, outgoing, successful, attractive, professional/ businessman, early 60's by this positive believer in miracles who is a slim blonde widow, with similar attributes. Photo please. W. Midlands. Box No 6778 ☎ ✍

WARM, independent woman, eclectic tastes, good company would like to meet an urbane man with intellect to share broad interests: books, classical music, conversation, food, wine & maybe walking and a lively sense of humour. I am late 40's, enjoy my successful career. I now live in South Yorkshire though work a lot of the time in London. Do write & tell me about yourself, your interests & what you'd want in a partner/friend. Please Reply to Box No 6691 ☎ ✍

WOULD you like to join me working & travelling Greek Islands April 1998. I am a N/S female 53 seeking a male for fun & friendship. Photo please. Reply to Box No 6868 ☎ ✍

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HAMPSHIRE widow, attractive amusing, enjoys wining, dining, country walks, theatre etc. seeks N/S gentleman 50-65 for fun, romance and perhaps a future together. Box No 6580 ☎ ✍

HERTFORD, Hitchin, Letchworth, Stevenage. Meet your perfect match at Elite Introductions. Call Suzanne 01582 834200

INTELLIGENT, 46 Oxfordshire lady interested in law & medicine for permanent relationship. Photo plse.Box 6671 ✍

HEDONIST seeks soulmate. Attractive brunette with very blue eyes (35) has wicked sense of humour, needs romance, fun & to be spoilt. London. Please Reply with photo to Box No 6714 ☎ ✍

I can't believe there isn't someone out there, who would want to meet my client who is pretty, feminine, well spoken, naturally fair haired, slim, public school and living in Cheshire, but prepared to travel to meet people. She has been widowed and only wishes to meet a widower from similar social background between 48-56. No charge for putting you in touch. Contact Mrs Heber Percy, Country Partners on either Fax 01432 370381, or pager no 01523 523 523 and ask for pager no 861501, leaving name, call back tel no. Total discretion assured. For details of Country Partners call 01432 342204

LIVELY lady, 51, slim, attractive, N/S, with no ties, seeks caring gentleman 50-59 for long term happy relation to share classical music, gardening, walking, cooking & swimming. Hampshire area. Photo please to Box No 6722 ☎ ✍

MAKE this easy going yet independent prof lady mid 40s, 5'7", dark haired & living in N. Wilts laugh. She has almost everything she needs - except someone to give her a hug & share her interests in gardening, tennis, antiques, the arts! Can anyone help? Please Reply to Box No 6677 ☎ ✍

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DICKENS, Delibes, Dvorak, the Dashwoods of Devon, delicious dinners a deux, disco dancing, daring, debonair & definitely detached (You 40+), decidedly delightful & difficult to impress (Me, Derbyshire), do you dare to deliberate over a reply & photo. Please Reply to Box No 6737 ☎ ✍

EXTRA good humour, character, sense, background, education, status, fun (& looks) lady WLTM similar mature gentleman preferably over 60 (looks immaterial). London/South. Box No 6653 ☎ ✍

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ADVENTUROUS, capable and stable young Lady sought. I am planning to sail in Caribbean and into Pacific later this year and find myself without a suitable crew. Someone with a preference for older boats (and men!) and if not experienced, then with the buzz to learn and to explore. Should be prepared to be away for two years if all goes well. In return for your help and a bit of painting and varnishing, I'll pay the bills. If you're out there, be quick. I need to get moving. Please Reply to Box No 6847 ☎ ✍

ANDOVER/Salisbury 25 mile radius. Only your kind of people at Elite Introductions 07000 781 981 open 7 days.

ALY KHAN, 39, n/s, 5'10, handsome, successful, solvent, Hampstead based. Romantic, loving and caring. Seeks his Princess, elegant, graceful with inner beauty for love, romance & domestic cosiness. Photo appreciated, ALA. Please Reply to Box No 6843 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE, successful and highly motivated 40 year old single man seeks equally attractive, vivacious and independent female under 35 with style and charm. I have a sensitive and serious side to my nature, as well as being fun loving and amusing and my lifestyle is a mixture of sophistication and simplicity. I am definitely a country based person with a great love of dogs but have an appreciation of what city life has to offer and am looking for someone who can share the best of both worlds with me! Please Reply to Box No 6817 ☎ ✍

AUTHOR, 50's, (London based) handsome, ex Commando, veteran seeks good looking lady for African desert adventure. Photo appreciated. Box No 6875 ☎ ✍

CAMBRIDGE fit, articulate, caring, international businessman, late 50's, N/S, 5'9", GSOH, interests: sporting (tennis, golf, skiing), travel, countryside, arts. Seeks attractive, intelligent, outgoing lady for long term relationship. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6785 ☎ ✍

CHARMING, aristocratic gentleman (Judge, 46, no children) is looking for a very lovely, intelligent lady. Photo necessary. Reply to Box No 6810 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

CHESHIRE fox, agile, free, just over-40. Looking for cute vixen. Reply in no more than 94 words. Reply to Box No 6609 ☎ ✍

CHRISTIAN man 36, City/Surrey based. Likes music, wining/dining, countryside seeks woman to love & cherish. Reply Box No. 6618 ☎ ✍

CONFIDENT, attractive, easy going man with a sense of style & still able to laugh at himself seeks real woman 30-35 between London & Bath. So find a stamp & photo & reply to Box No 6815 ☎ ✍

DYNAMIC yet caring, attractive, 6 ft, fit male, 45, highly successful & solvent, company owner. Wide interests - sailing, cycling, music, theatre etc. GSOH. Seeks attractive classy lady 35-45, looks & personality important. Photo essential. NW/Cheshire/West Yorks. Reply Box No 6825 ☎ ✍

EASY-GOING, well educated and humorous Male, 35, slim, German born, living in S.Kent. WLTM woman for lasting relationship. Interests: squash, travelling, walking, cinema & theatre. Box No 6729 ☎ ✍

HONEST, kind, Oxford educated man, 30, no history, average looks and build, well travelled, would now like to meet an attractive, intelligent woman with sense of humour for companionship and romance. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6864 ☎ ✍

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LEO with dog (dark haired, both of us!), 49, slim, fit, 6 ft, attractive, down to earth. WLTM slimish catlish lady, 32-45, with personality with whom to share my love of cooking, antiques, travel, sport & hopefully a lot of happiness. Midlands based. Photo apprec. Box No 6840 ☎ ✍

MALE, 49, N/S, GSOH, living in Guernsey. Fair, slim, fit, solvent, no baggage. Loves travel, good food, wine, various pursuits. Looking for soulmate, someone easy to talk to. Worldly, similar interests. Reply with photo to Box No 6806 ALA ☎ ✍

NO degree, not rich but I am intelligent, solvent, caring & good fun. Marketing director seeks lady 25-40 E. Midlands. Write with tel. number & I'll call. Box No 6854 ☎ ✍

PROFESSIONAL 50's adaptable London based male, varied interests WLTM slim lady 35+ interested in Japanese/Chinese culture. Letter please to Box No 6869 ☎ ✍

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SEE you when you get here! I'm 6'4", 14 stone, 41, very fit & handsome. Own & run a successful co. in Cheshire. Seeking partner to enhance 'me' & share my lifestyle. So join me! You 25-36, very attractive, wicked SOH, love to travel, independent/ career you care about. For me the time is right - let's hope fate has made you read this! Photo please. ALA. North-West. Box 6830 ☎ ✍

SLEEPLESS in Southampton over so slightly ancient Briton, part time golfer, no obvious handicap. Kind, tall, fit, healthy. Loves rambling, dogs, cheerful lunches, romantic evenings. WLTM amusing, warm hearted, perfect lady. [illegible] Please Reply to Box No 6872 ☎ ✍

SUFFOLK 34 Allegedly handsome professional, 6', enjoys all sports, loves holidays and cheerful company. Seeks active interesting lady for laughter and romance. Please Reply with a photograph to Box No 6648 ☎ ✍

SUMMER holidays & winter weekends. Male 40 might share them all with similar female. Sincere prof, 5'8", slim & active, yet alone in SE London for no good reason. Photo please. Reply to Box No 6805 ☎ ✍

TALL 6'2" slim, some would say good looking, professional male (29 just!) enjoys the finer things in life inc music, conversation & the outdoors WLTM attractive female aged 20-30 with a zest for life and adventure, GSOH essential. London area. Photo please to box no. 6888

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TYNESIDE Charming, irreverent, complicated, sensual, sceptical enthusiast 40, 6', slim, athletic, single with much to give seeks honest, alluring, bright, slim, passionate woman. For ever. Photo please. Box No 6670 ☎ ✍

YOUTHFUL widower, 60's retired Cambridge engineer living Scotland, country and cultural pursuits seeks intelligent loving lady under 60. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 6777 ☎ ✍

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KIND, considerate, professional man, 51, passionate Europhile, slim 5'6". Enjoys jazz and photography. Seeks thoughtful, sincere woman for keeps. W London/E Bucks. Please Reply to Box No 6763 ☎ ✍

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REFORMED workaholic, late 40's now with time & means to live & enjoy life. I am Jewish, 5'11" slim & fit with classic good looks. Eclectic interests include arts, travel, & community work. Seeking unforgettable woman for long term relationship. London based. Please write with photo to Box No 6687 ✍

SIX foot 2, eyes of blue, 182 lbs, mid 40's lawyer, - but otherwise well adjusted - sports, arts, epicurean, enthusiast seeks lady under 35 to share & give purpose to a full but unfulfilled life. Mids. based. Photo please to Box No 6882 ☎ ✍

SOCIABLE prof man, (London) 37 & single again, fit, attractive, into reading, walking, travel, arts, sport, & country pubs. Looking for a slim attractive lady 25-36 to share pursuits & maybe more. Photo ensures reply. Box No 6761 ☎ ✍

TOTAL, absolute loser, 29, nothing to offer, no credibility. Favourite pastime - breathing. Seeks gorgeous woman 25-33 for loving/caring [illegible]. Photo and letter essential. Southeast based. Reply to Box No 6744 ☎ ✍

SUFFOLK 34 Allegedly handsome professional, 6', enjoys all sports, loves holidays and cheerful company. Seeks active interesting lady for laughter and romance. Please Reply with a photograph to Box No 6648 ☎ ✍

TYNESIDE Charming, irreverent, complicated, sensual, sceptical enthusiast 40, 6', slim, athletic, single with much to give seeks honest, alluring, bright, slim, passionate woman. For ever. Photo please. Box No 6670 ☎ ✍

WIDOWER 67, humorous & warm, SE London, just under 6 ft, still has full head of brown hair, smoker, enjoys eating out, reading, gardening. [illegible] ladies reply with photo to Box 6770 ☎ ✍

IF you have traditional values and aged 28-35, natural looks and believe love can last forever, this 29 yr old happy successful male who is ready for commitment would love to hear from you. Please write with photo and long letter to Box No 6745 ☎ ✍

IDEAL gentleman of higher substance, sympathy & intelligence sought by sophisticated lady, slim, warm, talented, attractive, gregarious, fun, good hostess/cook. Loves music, mainly classical, some sport, sunshine. Home South-east & France. Your preferred age between 48-68. Photo please. Box No 6746 ☎ ✍

GAY male. [illegible] N. Wales. Reply to Box No 6888 ☎ ✍

GAY man London/[illegible] seeking long term relationship [illegible] 0171 494 0004

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